CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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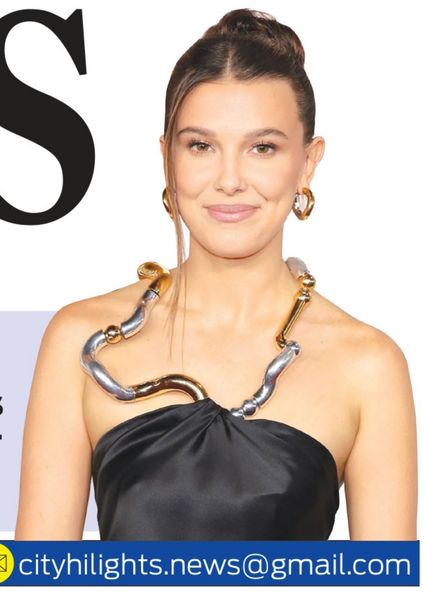

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Bengaluru couple killed in ambulance hit-and-run

BENGALURU

A couple was killed and two others injured in a hit-and-run accident late Saturday night at KH Junction, Wilson Garden. Eyewitnesses said a speeding Force Tempo Traveller ambulance struck a Suzuki Access scooter carrying Ismail Nathan Dabapu (40) and his wife Sameena Banu (33), throwing them from the vehicle. The ambulance then hit a second two-wheeler before crashing into a traffic signal box. An angry crowd toppled the ambulance. Dabapu and Banu later succumbed to their injuries. Police traced and detained the driver, registering a case for rash driving, causing death by negligence.

18 dead as bus hits parked trailer in Rajasthan

PHALODI

At least 18 people were killed and three others injured when a bus collided with a parked trailer near Matoda village on the Bharat Mala Highway in Phalodi district, about 400 km from Jaipur, on Sunday. Police said the victims were residents of the Sursagar area in Jodhpur and were returning home after visiting the Kolayat temple in Bikaner and offering prayers at the Kapil Muni Ashram. The impact of the crash was severe, leaving the front portion of the bus completely damaged. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed deep grief over the tragedy and directed officials to provide all possible assistance to the victims' families.

Tamil Nadu politicians take stand against SIR exercise

CHENNAI

An all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin adopted a resolution opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, urging the Election Commission of India (ECI) to halt the exercise until after the 2026 assembly elections. Citing procedural flaws and perceived bias, the resolution termed the SIR "undemocratic" and an "assault on voters' rights." The meeting, attended by 49 parties, decided to approach the Supreme Court if the ECI continues the process. Several parties, including TVK and PMK, boycotted, questioning the timing and motives of the DMK-led initiative.

Min Reddy says he is not aspiring for the CM's post

BENGALURU

Amid a wave of social media posts promoting the hashtag 'RamalingaReddyForCM', Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy clarified that he has no ambitions for the Chief Minister's post. In his statement, Reddy said, "The government is stable, and the CM's position is not vacant. I am not a contender for it." He urged supporters to stop spreading baseless campaigns, emphasizing that his focus remains on fulfilling promises made to the people under the Chief Minister's leadership. Reddy appealed to party workers and well-wishers not to be misled by such posts.

Chief Election Commissioner vows peaceful, transparent Bihar polls

The Election Commission, he concluded, is determined to uphold democracy by ensuring safety & fairness

"The updated electoral roll now includes the names of seven crore eligible voters. Our goal is to ensure that no fake names remain and that no genuine voter is left out."

—Gyanesh Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner

In a measured response on the SIR process, Kumar said the Commission values constructive criticism and remains steadfast in ensuring transparent and fair reforms.

KANPUR

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday assured that the upcoming Bihar Assembly Elections will be conducted in a peaceful, transparent, and impartial manner. Speaking to reporters in Kanpur, Kumar emphasized the Election Commission's firm stance against any form of violence.

"Any act of violence will not be tolerated. Every voter will have the freedom to cast their vote peacefully and fearlessly," Kumar said, underlining the Commission's commitment to maintaining law and order throughout the election process. His remarks came just days after a Jan Suraj party worker, Dular Chand Yadav, was killed in poll-related violence in Mokama.

Kumar said that the Election Commission has made all necessary preparations to ensure a smooth and fair electoral process. He expressed confidence that the people of Bihar will participate in the elections with the same enthusiasm as they celebrate their festivals. "I hope that citizens will come out in large numbers to vote," he added.

During his visit to Kanpur to attend two official events, Kumar also spoke about efforts to maintain an accurate voter list in Bihar. He further stated that the Commission aims to make the Bihar Assembly elections a model for both India and other democracies across the world.

Bihar is scheduled to vote in two phases, on November 6 and November 11, with counting set for November 14. Responding poetically to criticism from opposition parties over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, Kumar said that constructive feedback is always welcome but reaffirmed the Commission's dedication to fair and transparent electoral reforms.

Rahul slams Modi in fiery Bihar rally

Begusarai: At a rally in Bihar's Begusarai, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "scared of Donald Trump" and "remote-controlled by big business." Gandhi said having a "56-inch chest" doesn't prove strength, citing Mahatma Gandhi's courage as real bravery. He alleged Modi halted "Operation Sindoor" after Trump's call and that decisions like GST and demonetisation hurt small businesses. Rahul promised support for local industries with "Made in Bihar" products. He also claimed BJP manipulates elections and distracts youth with social media.

DCM backs tunnel project, seeks constructive input

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar defended the tunnel road project, saying it was meant for public benefit and not a personal venture. He urged BJP leaders to offer constructive suggestions instead of needless criticism. Speaking at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "I know how to organize campaigns. Rather than protesting, let them give useful ideas."

Shivakumar accused the BJP of relying entirely on the RSS, claiming most of its members were "former Congress or JDS leaders." He reminded critics that Bengaluru's Metro system was also built through tunnels and recalled his earlier work on the project during S.M. Krishna's tenure.

Taking a swipe at Tejasvi Surya, Shivakumar said the MP "asked for a new car before marriage" despite urging others to avoid car travel. He added, "Why can't he use metro or bus?" He also dismissed allegations of threatening Surya or MLA Ramamurthy, saying they were baseless.

Regarding environmental concerns, he assured citizens that Lalbagh's heritage would not be harmed, adding, "I am not a fool to destroy Lalbagh." Shivakumar said he was open to forming a committee under R. Ashok to study the project further.

On Delhi visits, he clarified that Congress leaders travel for administrative work, not politics.

DK Shivakumar warns party over power talks

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has once again warned Congress leaders against making public remarks about the party's leadership and power-sharing. Speaking to reporters, he said, "It's only worth talking between the two of us; no one should speak about the revolution." His statement hinted at internal discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah regarding leadership decisions.

BJP leaders protest against Lalbagh tunnel project

BENGALURU

BJP leaders R Ashoka and Tejasvi Surya held a protest at Lalbagh on Sunday, opposing the Tunnel Road project under the slogan, "Save Lalbagh, Protect Bengaluru." The protest, however, was not allowed by police, but the leaders still visited the site where the tunnel is planned.

During the visit, the BJP leaders launched a signature campaign against the project. R Ashoka, the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, said he would meet locals to discuss the proposed tunnel, which is expected to pass under Lalbagh.

Ashoka also questioned the Horticulture Department on whether permission for the project needs approval from the Central Government or State Government. Officials said it had to be verified. Criticizing the department, Ashoka claimed the tender process was started before proper approvals, calling it "reverse order" and asked for correct information to be shared with the public. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar responded to the protests, saying Ashoka and senior members should engage with the public about the tunnel project.

Modi criticized Rahul Gandhi for insulting Chhath, urging voters to reject RJD's caste politics and Bihar's "jungle raj."

Modi alleges Congress named Tejashwi CM 'at gunpoint'

PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that the Congress party was forced by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) to name Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate for the INDIA bloc "at gunpoint." Addressing rallies in Bihar's Bhojpur and Nawada districts on Sunday, Modi claimed that the decision was made under pressure during a closed-door meeting before the withdrawal of nomination papers.

He accused the RJD of using "goondagardi" (strong-arm tactics) and said the Congress never agreed to the decision willingly. "A katta (pistol) was put to the head of the Congress," Modi said, adding that the alliance lacked unity and would collapse after the elections.

The Prime Minister further alleged that the Congress was not even consulted while preparing the alliance's manifesto and campaign plan. "Such an alliance cannot do good for Bihar," he remarked.

Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Modi accused him of insulting the Chhath festival and urged people to teach him a lesson through votes. He also reminded voters of Bihar's "jungle raj" period under RJD rule, accusing the party of promoting caste violence and neglecting development. Modi praised the NDA government led by Nitish Kumar for putting Bihar on the path of growth and promised rapid industrial progress if re-elected. He said one crore jobs would be created in the next five years.

RECORD-BREAKING INNINGS

Smriti Mandhana surpasses Mithali Raj to become India Women's highest run-scorer in a single ODI World Cup edition, narrowly missing 1,000 career World Cup runs in Sunday's final against South Africa.

Israel urges Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called on Lebanon to immediately disarm Hezbollah, warning that Israel will act to defend itself if the militant group continues to rearm. Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Netanyahu said Israel would "take necessary steps" to prevent its northern border from becoming a flashpoint for conflict. The demand comes nearly a year after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in November 2024 ended more than a year of fighting triggered by the war in Gaza. Despite the truce, Israeli forces have carried out occasional strikes across the Lebanese border. On Sunday, the military reported that four Hezbollah members were killed in targeted operations.

HEAVIEST SATELLITE SOARS

ISRO launches CMS-03 to strengthen naval network

SRIHARIKOTA

In a major boost to India's defence and communication capabilities, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03, on Sunday evening. Weighing 4,410 kilograms, the satellite was carried into space by the powerful LVM-3 rocket, also known as the "Bahubali" of Indian rockets, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5:26 pm.

Just over sixteen minutes after liftoff, the spacecraft separated from the launch vehicle, marking another milestone in India's growing expertise in heavy satellite launches. The CMS-03, also called GSAT-7R, will serve as a vital link in the Indian Navy's expanding communication grid across the Indian Ocean.

Equipped with advanced multi-band payloads—covering C, extended C, and Ku bands—the satellite will enable secure, high-speed communication between naval warships, submarines, aircraft, and coastal command centers. Compared to its ageing predecessor GSAT-7 "Rukmini", CMS-03 offers far greater coverage and bandwidth, ensuring real-time connectivity even in remote and contested maritime zones.

With its upgraded encryption systems and high-throughput transponders, CMS-03 will play a central role in network-centric naval operations, improving situational awareness, coordination, and data sharing. It will also enhance India's Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)—a crucial element for surveillance, threat detection, and operational readiness in vast oceanic territories.

The satellite's coverage extends well beyond India's borders, supporting both military and civilian operations such as disaster management, remote sensing, and telemedicine. Its deployment strengthens India's self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reducing dependence on foreign communication systems.

Over the next week, CMS-03 will use its onboard Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) to gradually reach its final geostationary orbit. Once fully operational, within four to five weeks, it will cement India's place as a leader in indigenous space technology and bolster communication security across the Indian Ocean region.

QUICK READ

Mahadevapura potholes, citizens seek liberation

BENGALURU

Potholes have turned into a daily nightmare for residents of Mahadevapura constituency, leading to frequent accidents and tragic loss of lives. Several commuters have suffered severe injuries and permanent disabilities while attempting to avoid cratered stretches. Heart-wrenching scenes of accident victims have sparked outrage among citizens, who accuse the authorities of gross negligence. Locals recall that nearly 15 years ago, when the area was under Panchayat administration, road maintenance was far better. Today, residents demand urgent action and accountability to restore safe and motorable roads.

GBA to rejuvenate roads

BENGALURU

Following directions from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the GBA has fast-tracked road development across the city, said Commissioner Rajendra Cholan. The civic body has prioritised closing potholes, asphalting key stretches, and laying concrete roads to improve mobility. Cholan inspected the asphalting work near the Town Hall and instructed officials to ensure high-quality execution. Over the past two days, BBMP has intensified road repair and development efforts at several locations within its limits to enhance road safety and commuter convenience.

Deer killed in stray dog attack

BENGALURU

A deer was mauled to death by stray dogs in the Turahalli forest area behind Omkar Hills in Uttarahalli, highlighting once again the growing menace of stray canines in Bengaluru. The deer, which had wandered out of the forest, was fatally attacked on the spot. Locals said such incidents have been recurring, with stray dogs frequently preying on smaller animals emerging from the forest. The tragic death has renewed calls for urgent intervention by the Forest and GBA to control the stray population.

It's now easier for public to meet the CM and Ministers

Recognizing citizens' difficulties, the govt will soon launch a mobile app for appointments

BENGALURU

Meeting the Chief Minister, ministers, and senior officials at Vidhana Soudha and Vikas Soudha has long been a challenge for ordinary citizens. Many people visit the offices repeatedly or wait in long queues, often returning disappointed. Acknowledging this concern, the state government has decided to introduce a dedicated mobile application that will simplify the process of checking availability and scheduling appointments with key government functionaries.Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader said the new app will not only help citizens get appointments with the Chief Minister and ministers but will also serve as a digital guide to both government buildings. Vidhana Soudha and Vikas Soudha together house around 600 offices of various departments, making navigation confusing for many visitors. Through the app, users will be able to locate specific rooms, departments, or officials with ease.

"This is the first time in the country that such an app is being developed for a government complex housing top offices, including those of the Chief Minister and ministers," Khader said. The app will include real-time information on the availability of ministers and officials. For instance, if an official is travelling or engaged in meetings, those details will be updated in the app so visitors can plan their trips accordingly.

Khader added that the government aims to expand the app's features in future versions, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in public interactions.

The initiative is expected to bridge the gap between the public and administration while reducing unnecessary crowding and confusion in the state secretariat.

> Efforts are also underway to make the legislative sessions of the Assembly and Council paperless. Currently, documents such as budgets, bills, and committee reports are printed for MLAs. Once complete digitisation is implemented, these sessions will go fully paperless. Two proposals to achieve this transition have been submitted to the state government.

BJP Is the Slave of RSS, Says Kharge

BENGALURU

Minister Priyank Kharge has launched a fierce attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that it functions as a slave of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

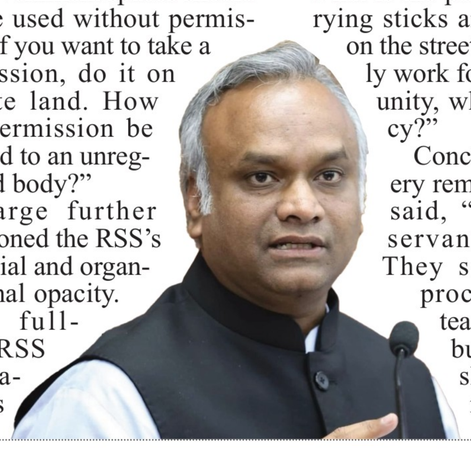
Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kharge said, "The RSS's procession has been going on for a month, and BJP leaders have finally spoken yesterday. For an entire month, BJP leaders have been busy campaigning on the streets. If they don't speak in favour of RSS, they won't get tickets for elections.

Why hasn't the BJP appointed its national president yet? Because the RSS has not given permission," he remarked sarcastically.Kharge questioned the legitimacy and transparency of the RSS, asking, "Why is RSS still not registered as an organisation? The entire country and society have not accepted the RSS.

It is not right to assume that everyone has."

Criticising RSS processions held without proper authorisation, he added,

"Government spaces should not be used without permission. If you want to take a procession, do it on private land. How can permission be granted to an unregistered body?"



Kharge further questioned the RSS's financial and organisational opacity. "Are full-time RSS prachaaraks given salaries or honorariums? From where does the money come? Who donates? Where is the accountability? Every registered institution has to file reports every six months — does RSS?" he asked.

He also mocked the symbolism of RSS drills, saying, "What is the purpose of carrying sticks and marching on the streets? If you truly work for culture and unity, why the secrecy?"

Concluding his fiery remarks, Kharge said, "We are not servants of RSS. They say we hold processions and teach discipline, but are we all slaves of RSS now?"

Suspicious death of young woman in Milk Colony

BENGALURU

A 25-year-old woman, identified as Supriya, was found dead under suspicious circumstances in her rented room in Milk Colony, under Subrahmanya Nagar police limits, on Saturday night. Police said the body was in a state of decomposition, indicating she may have died at least two days earlier.

Supriya, a native of Davangere, was pursuing her MBA and had been living alone on the third floor of a house in Milk Colony for the past two years. According to police, she was also learning to ride a bike and had not been seen by neighbours for two days.

Grand Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration at Kaggalipura

BENGALURU

The SnehaJeevi Drivers' Trade Union, Yeshwanthpur Division, Kaggalipura Unit, celebrated the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava on Sunday with grandeur, enthusiasm, and unity.

The celebrations began with the hoisting of the Kannada flag, followed by the distribution of free uniforms to the drivers as a gesture of appreciation for their service.

Presiding over the event were Honorary President Gandasi Sadananda Swamy, State President Santhosh Kumar, and State General Secretary Raju Kannadiga, along with other dignitaries.

The chief guests included former Zilla Panchayat members S. Parviz, V. Sridhar, Santhosh Kumar, and Shankar Lal, who lauded the drivers for their contribution to society.

Local leaders Puneeth, Manjunath, Devaraj, and Murugesh, along with Kaggalipura office-bearers and union members, played a key role in organizing the successful and spirited celebration that showcased Kannada pride and unity.

'I'm not a fool to destroy Lalbagh': DCM defends tunnel project

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar strongly defended the proposed Tunnel Road Project, asserting that he is "not a fool to destroy Lalbagh" and fully understands its historic significance.

Reacting to the BJP's signature campaign opposing the project, Shivakumar said the initiative was being politicised. "Let's do good and create awareness. We'll form a committee under the chairmanship of Ashok. I am ready—let them decide who the members should be. This is not my property or anyone's property; it's a public project," he said.

Shivakumar said he had personally studied all aspects of the plan, including the exact extent of Lalbagh land to be affected. "I know how much land is being used and how much is not. They only want politics, not development," he remarked.

Taking aim at the BJP, he added, "The tunnel was built only for the metro. Did they bring the metro? Let's check the records. During S.M. Krishna's tenure, I visited ten countries, prepared a report, and submitted it to Vajpayee and Ananth Kumar."

He also took a swipe at Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, sarcastically calling him "a great leader, very intelligent—he opened the flight door." Shivakumar accused BJP leaders of hypocrisy, saying, "They tell others to give up cars but apply for new ones themselves."He further said that proposals like BRTS and TRAI.

State plans to introduce third-party drug-quality testing

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is planning to introduce third-party inspections for manufactured drugs on a voluntary basis, as its earlier proposal to establish an independent agency for mandatory quality checks has encountered regulatory challenges. The initiative comes after several city pharmacists appealed for the creation of a drug-quality regulation mechanism under the Quality Council of India (QCI), a public-private partnership that already oversees standards in sectors such as construction, jewellery, and finance.

If implemented, Karnataka could become the first state in India to adopt such a system. Officials, however, clarified that any formal rollout will depend on amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, by the central government. "Till the time we get the Centre's consent, we plan to begin voluntary inspections," said Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare. "Once the rules are amended, we can make it mandatory for manufacturers to get their products assessed by an accredited agency once every one to three years."

The move follows growing concerns about drug safety and accountability. In a recent letter to both central and state health departments, the Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists Association (BDCDA) urged the creation of a nationwide drug-quality testing framework. The association's appeal cited the recent tragedy involving contaminated cough syrup that caused the deaths of 23 children, noting that such incidents are often followed by blame games between state and central regulators rather than meaningful systemic reforms.

> "We can't change everything overnight, but this is a step in the right direction. I think this will also help manufacturers earn more credibility and market advantage while we improve quality standards for medicines we sell," said B. Thirunavukkarasu, President, BDCDA.

While the BDCDA welcomed the government's initiative, it emphasised that voluntary testing should eventually become mandatory to ensure nationwide compliance and consumer confidence. Officials believe that third-party certification will not only improve drug safety but also enhance manufacturers' credibility in domestic and export markets.

Newly laid footpaths in Ejipura fall apart in just four months

BENGALURU

Barely four months after being laid, the newly constructed footpaths along the Ejipura flyover have started crumbling, drawing strong criticism from pedestrians and residents. The civic body's efforts to upgrade pedestrian infrastructure in June have clearly fallen short, as several stretches are already damaged, uneven, or sinking into the road.

Along Ejipura Main Road, particularly between Koramangala Water Tank (Kendriya Sadan) junction and the Sony World traffic signal, tiles have come loose or cracked, creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians. The walkway's low gradient and uneven surface have made it especially unsafe for senior citizens and people with disabilities. In many spots, pedestrians are forced to step onto the busy main road to avoid broken slabs."It's been only a few months since the footpaths were laid and they're already falling apart," said Nagendra, a commuter from BTM Layout. "I don't understand how such substandard work was approved. It's risky for anyone walking here."Earlier this year, BBMP (now Greater Bengaluru Authority – GBA) Commissioner Maheshwar Rao had inspected the under-construction Ejipura flyover and adjoining roads. During his May 30 visit, he had instructed contractors to repair the pedestrian pathways immediately to ensure safety. However, residents say little has changed since then.

Locals are now demanding a fresh inspection by GBA officials, urging them to blacklist the contractor and ensure proper rectification before the damage worsens.

Lack of Interest in ₹1,500-cr Twin Tower Project; Plan Likely to Be Shelved

BENGALURU : The state government's ambitious plan to construct 50-storey twin towers in the heart of Bengaluru's Majestic area appears headed for the scrap heap, with no bidders responding to repeated tenders for the ₹1,500-crore project. Conceived during the tenure of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, the project aimed to consolidate various government offices—currently scattered across the city in locations such as Vikas Soudha, Shantinagar BMTC complex, Koramangala, and VV Towers—under one roof. An 8.8-acre plot near Anand Rao Circle flyover in Gandhinagar was earmarked for the project. Initially announced as a 25-storey twin tower complex costing ₹400 crore, the proposal was later scaled up to 50 floors to utilise the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and accommodate more departments.However, despite multiple attempts, the Public Works Department (PWD) has failed to attract bidders. "We called for tenders thrice—in February, June, and October. There were no participants the first two times, and we are unsure about the current call. If this fails too, the project may have to be abandoned," a senior PWD official said.The government had explored both Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and entrusting the project to the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), but both approaches fell through due to technical.

NO RELIEF FOR TRAFFIC HURDLES

Arterial road linking Magadi Road and Mysuru delayed

BENGALURU

The long-awaited arterial road connecting Magadi Road with the Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway has hit yet another delay, with its completion now pushed to early 2026. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had earlier revised the project's deadline to November 2025, but persistent monsoon rains and pending railway clearances have forced another extension.

The 11-km stretch, designed to ease congestion across western Bengaluru, passes through Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and connects to the Bengaluru–Mysuru highway near Challaghatta. Officials said that while most of the roadwork is complete, progress on the crucial railway underpass near Challaghatta has been stalled.

"As part of the project, we are constructing a railway underbridge using box-push technology. The precast boxes have been ready for nearly two months, but continuous rain halted progress," a senior BDA official said. "We also need line and power blocks from South Western Railway (SWR) to launch the girders. Their team has inspected the site, and once we receive clearance, we'll begin the girder launch followed by push-boxing work."

Given that the Bengaluru–Mysuru rail corridor is one of the busiest in the region, work can only be carried out in short intervals during non-operational hours. The underbridge will be 14 metres wide, with each precast box segment measuring 40 metres.

Officials expressed confidence that the road could be opened for public use by January 2026, once the underbridge and safety tests are completed.

The Rs 500-crore six-lane project aims to provide motorists a direct link between two major western corridors—Magadi Road and Mysuru Road—cutting travel time and easing congestion in interior areas. The road passes through Kambipura, Challaghatta, K Krishnanagar, Bhimanakuppe, Kommaghatta, Sulikere, Kenchanapura, Kannalli, Machohalli, and adjoining localities.

With several major bridges, box culverts, and rotary junctions already in place, commuters and residents are hoping the long-delayed project will finally bring relief to Bengaluru's traffic woes next year.

QUICK READ

Traffic Disruptions near Majestic as White-Topping Work Begins

BENGALURU

White-topping work has commenced on key roads in the Gandhinagar Assembly constituency, causing potential traffic disruptions near Majestic. The project, which stretches from the Upparapet Police Station to Shantala Silks Circle, aims to improve road durability and reduce maintenance. However, motorists are already facing bottlenecks as the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has also begun parallel pipeline-laying work in the same stretch. Warning signs and barricades have been installed, but commuters are advised to plan alternate routes to avoid congestion in the Majestic area.

Bengaluru to Host Inaugural Skill Summit from November 4 to 6

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC), in association with the Karnataka Skill Development Authority (KSDA), Knowledge Partner Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), and Country Partner Germany, will host the first-ever Bengaluru Skill Summit from November 4 to 6 at The Lalit Ashok. The summit's theme, "Workforce 2030: Scale, Systems, Synergy," focuses on expanding skill opportunities, improving quality and relevance, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. The event will feature over 3,000 participants, 100+ speakers, and 50+ exhibitors, including ministers, industry leaders, and academic experts.

Legal Education is a Powerful Weapon: Prof. Dr. C. Basavaraju

Priority must be given to raising community awareness on the importance

BENGALURU

"Legal education is a powerful weapon that can transform society," said Karnataka State Law University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. C. Basavaraju, inaugurating the registration and Freshers' Day 2025 programme for first-year law students, organised by the Constitution Reflection Trust at SJ School of Law College, Kengeri-Uttarahalli Main Road.

He noted that SJ School of Law has evolved into a strong educational institution imparting justice-oriented legal education to students from marginalized backgrounds. "The right to equality, as enshrined in the Constitution, must reach everyone. The Constitution written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar transcends caste and religion. Its aspirations empower citizens to fight corruption, injustice, and oppression. Legal knowledge is therefore essential for ensuring justice and equality for all," he said.Constitution Reflection Trust President H. Vijay Kumar emphasized that legal literacy is vital for every citizen. "Education must go hand in hand with awareness of laws. As citizens, we should know how to demand our rights and fulfill our duties toward society and the nation. There is a lack of legal understanding across the state, and continuous legal learning is key to progress," he said.Law College Principal Cladiya Nad, The Kingdom College Principal Dr. B.S. Santosh, and faculty members S. Ranjitha, Gunasekar, and Vaishnavi Ittaragi were present on the occasion.

If the legislature, judiciary, or executive stray from their responsibilities, the press plays a vital role in correcting them and creating public awareness, observed Prof. Dr. C. Basavaraju.

Govt Schools Begin Admission Drive from November

The move aims to help government schools stay competitive amid the growing dominance of private institutions

BENGALURU

In a bid to strengthen enrolment and counter growing competition from private institutions, government schools across Karnataka are set to begin their admission drive from November—well ahead of the usual academic schedule.

The Education Department, backed by the state government, has decided to launch early admissions to ensure that government schools secure a larger share of new students for the next academic year.

Traditionally, government school admissions begin in May or June, by which time most private schools have already completed their enrolment processes. As a result, many parents opt for private institutions, leaving government schools struggling to fill seats. To reverse this trend, the department plans to roll out an awareness campaign highlighting the growing infrastructure and facilities available in state-run schools.

The drive will focus on showcasing amenities such as smart classrooms, computer labs, free transportation, and early learning sections (LKG and UKG). Additionally, government schools continue to offer free uniforms, shoes, textbooks, mid-day meals, eggs, and bananas, benefits often missing in private institutions.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to formally launch the initiative soon.

The campaign will emphasize both the affordability and quality of education in government schools, dispelling long-standing misconceptions about their standards.

Residents plan protest, accuse civic body of inefficiency and misuse of new waste management policy

Citizens Fume over GBA Dumping Garbage at Doorsteps

BENGALURU

Anger is mounting among city residents against the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) over its controversial waste management drive, where garbage is being dumped at the doorsteps of alleged litterbugs.

Furious citizens are planning to protest by dumping waste in front of the GBA office, accusing the civic body of inefficiency and harassment.

Residents say the GBA has failed to maintain proper waste collection systems and instead resorted to public shaming without fixing its own lapses.

Many allege that the civic body's move is simply a way to divert attention from its poor handling of waste across the city.

One resident said the new initiative appeared to be a plan to extort residents rather than improve cleanliness. "There's no one to punish GBA officials when they are at fault.

Many GBA-owned open spaces have become dumping yards. Who will take responsibility for that?" he questioned.

He added that GBA vehicles often fail to collect garbage on time, forcing residents to live amid filth.

"If garbage collection doesn't happen properly, we too will start dumping waste outside.

The officials should first do their duty before punishing citizens," he warned.

Citizens have demanded immediate corrective action and warned that they will launch their own cleanliness campaign if the GBA fails to act responsibly.

7 Transgender Persons Held for Assaulting Gang Member

BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police have arrested seven transgender persons for allegedly assaulting one of their own associates over a personal rivalry.

According to police, the gang—led by Preeti and Chinni—reportedly abducted Sukanya, a trans woman, from KR Puram in an autorickshaw and brought her to Bommanahalli, where they tonsured her head and beat her with rolling pins and other objects.

Police said the assault stemmed from resentment after Sukanya joined another group.

Despite her pleas for mercy, the gang continued the attack.

The accused allegedly made a video call to another trans woman during the assault, and the clip later went viral on social media.

Following the incident, Bommanahalli police arrested seven accused.

Further investigation is underway to determine the full extent of the assault and the roles of each member.

K-SET Exam Conducted Smoothly with 90% Attendance: KEA

BENGALURU

The K-SET-25 examination, qualifying candidates for lecturer posts in degree colleges, was conducted smoothly across 11 districts of Karnataka on Sunday, with no untoward incidents reported, according to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said strict measures were implemented to prevent malpractices and ensure transparency. Out of 1.34 lakh applicants, 1.21 lakh candidates — about 90 percent — appeared for the test held for 34 subjects.

The exam was conducted across 316 centres in Bengaluru, Bellary, Belagavi, Davangere, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Vijayapura.

As answer sheets reached the KEA office from various centres, scanning and uploading began by evening. Prasanna added that key answers for all subjects will be published later this week on the KEA website.

Delivery Agents Face Scrutiny as Police Plan Safeguards

BENGALURU

With a steady rise in crimes involving quick commerce delivery agents, the Bengaluru City Police is planning a detailed crackdown and introducing new safeguards to regulate the largely unorganised sector.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has directed all police stations to conduct a station-wise review of cases involving delivery personnel, especially those related to crimes against women.

The move follows a recent incident in which a Brazilian model was allegedly molested by a delivery agent at her apartment.

The accused, a 21-year-old diploma student, was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

Emphasising the need for mandatory background verification, Singh said that quick commerce platforms must verify an employee's work history, police records, and identification before onboarding. He also highlighted the risks of cross-employment, where delivery workers frequently switch companies without any formal checks.

Police have also instructed firms to enhance safety mechanisms by maintaining real-time delivery logs, GPS-based tracking, and up-to-date employee contact details.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration) Kuldeep Kumar Jain said, "This is a growing employment sector, and documentation is imperative.

Many delivery agents use vehicles that are not registered in their names. Companies must take responsibility and ensure compliance."

Industry insiders admit that while third-party agencies conduct background verification, it often lacks depth and misses crucial details. With the city's quick commerce network expanding rapidly, the police plan to implement strict protocols to ensure accountability and public safety for both customers and delivery workers.

Sewing Machines Distributed to Empower Women

BENGALURU

The efforts of the Negila Yogi Samaj Seva Trust in empowering women were lauded by Ullal Ward Nagarik Vedike President S. Madaiah, who distributed free sewing machines to more than 50 women trained in tailoring.

The event, organised jointly by Ullal Ward Nagarik Vedike, Negila Yogi Samaj Seva Trust, and Divya Jyothi Seva Trust, was held on the occasion of the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava at Ullal Ward Nagega House in Yeshwantpur constituency. Madaiah said the initiative would help women become self-reliant and financially independent.

Dr. Venkatappa, Proprietor of Kanva Diagnostic Services Limited, said such initiatives empower women to become self-employed and improve their livelihoods.

He stressed the importance of identifying eligible beneficiaries and ensuring that they make the best use of the opportunity.

Ullal Ward Citizens' Forum Vice-President Ashok Ramasandra, Guarantee Committee President Anil Kumar, and Kanva Diagnostic Services representatives B. M. Shashidhar and Ramdas Nayak were also present on the occasion.

Garment Workers Demand Free Nutritious Meals, Better Workplace Conditions

BENGALURU

Nearly 350 garment workers, most of them women, gathered at the Kondajji Basappa auditorium to submit a memorandum to industry stakeholders and civil society leaders, demanding free nutritious lunches and improved workplace conditions in Bengaluru's garment factories.

The gathering, held under the banner of Garments Karmikara Mahasangama, was organised by the Munnade Social Organisation in collaboration with Cividep India. Workers highlighted severe health and nutritional deficiencies affecting their community. The demands stemmed from a recent Cividep India study titled Dietary Diversity and Possible Nutrition Status, which found that most workers had poor diet quality, with limited intake of green leafy vegetables, fruits, and protein-rich foods. This has led to widespread micronutrient deficiencies, especially in iron and folate. Long working hours and low wages were cited as key causes.

During the event, workers from several factories voiced their grievances, urging the government and employers to ensure safe drinking water, healthy meals, and upgraded canteen facilities.

The meeting was attended by P. G. R. Sindhia, Chief Commissioner of Bharath Scouts and Guides, actress Umashree, Independent Counsellor Tara, and P. H. Yashodha, Executive Director of Munnade Social Organisation, who pledged support for the workers' cause.

The memorandum calls for immediate policy action to safeguard workers' health, nutrition, and dignity.

ACTIVIST OPPOSES HYDEL PROJ

Reject Mini-Hydel Project in: Activist to Forest Dept

BENGALURU

Wildlife conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni has urged the Forest Department to reject the proposed 10-MW mini-hydel project across the Kumaradhara River at Somwarpet, warning that it would cause irreversible damage to the Western Ghats through landslides, flooding, forest fragmentation, and wildlife loss.

Over 15 years after the state government faced a legal battle in the Karnataka High Court over similar projects, a Hassan-based company has submitted a fresh proposal for the hydel plant in the Madikeri territorial division—an ecologically sensitive region already under pressure from multiple development activities.

Kulkarni, in a letter to divisional and circle-level forest officers, pointed out that the proposed project area lies close to the Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, a critical elephant habitat and home to several Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The site, he noted, is just 2.5 km from the sanctuary boundary and likely falls within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) notified on June 28, 2017.

He further reminded authorities that in Writ Petition 9333 of 2009, the Forest Department and the state government had given an affidavit before the High Court, assuring that no new mini-hydel projects would be allowed in the Western Ghats. Following the court's direction, about ten such projects were cancelled.

Allowing a new project now, he said, would violate the government's commitment to the court and undermine conservation efforts, urging officials to protect the Western Ghats and reject the proposal outright.

QUICK READ

"Kayaka Grama" programme launched

Chitradurga

The "Kayaka Grama" programme was launched on Saturday at Renukapur village in Challakere taluk. Jafar Sharif Sutar, Deputy Secretary of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department and State-level Nodal Officer, said that effective utilisation of government grants could ensure comprehensive development of villages. The programme, announced by the Chief Minister in the 2025-26 Budget, aims to identify and develop backward gram panchayats in a holistic manner. As per government directives, the Panchayat Raj Department's e-Governance division has prepared a performance ranking system to select underperforming panchayats. Under this scheme, efforts will be made to ensure overall progress through effective implementation of Central and State schemes, regular public service delivery, and improved tax collection.

Preserve and promote mother tongue, urges Justice N. Nagresh

Mangaluru

Kerala High Court Judge Justice N. Nagresh stressed the importance of preserving and promoting one's mother tongue, calling it vital for personal and cultural growth. Speaking at the Vishwa Konkani Award ceremony at the Vishwa Konkani Kendra, he said the mother tongue forms the foundation for learning other languages and developing individuality. The event honored contributors to Konkani literature and culture. Poet Shashikant Poonaji received the Konkani Poetry Award, while writer Balachandra Gaonkar was conferred the Konkani Literature Award. The Basti Vamana Shenoy Seva Puraskar went to Anupama Shenoy and Tanula Tarun for their social service. Portraits of six eminent personalities were also unveiled, with P. Dayananda Pai and Nandagopal Shenoy among the dignitaries present.

Vijayendra joins RSS patha sanchalana

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra joined over 5,000 RSS volunteers in a procession held in Shiralkoppa

SHIVAMOGGA

A grand procession was organized by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Shiralkoppa, Shikaripura taluk, marking the centenary celebrations of the organization. BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra participated in the march, which saw the participation of nearly 5,000 RSS volunteers in uniform.

The procession began from three routes — Valmiki Bhavan, Hirekerur Road, and Belligavi Road — and converged near the bus stand circle before proceeding together to a private public school ground on Shikaripura Road, where it concluded. Citizens lined the streets, showering flowers to welcome the participants. Addressing the gathering, RSS North Zone executive member Dr. Ravindra emphasized the importance of discipline and unity, while local RSS leader Keshav Sampekai was also present.

Speaking to the media later, Vijayendra criticized Minister Priyank Kharge, calling him a "publicity seeker." He alleged that Kharge was vying for the Chief Minister's position and using controversial remarks to gain attention. Vijayendra also attacked the Congress government for failing to address farmers' distress in Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka, who have been affected by heavy rains.

He accused the state government of administrative collapse, infighting, and neglecting public welfare. "No new pro-people schemes have been announced in the past two and a half years. The government has become inactive while citizens continue to suffer," he added.

Minister backs Kharge's authority on RSS ban remarks

HAVERI

Minister Shivanand Patil defended Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on banning the RSS, saying Kharge, as a national leader, has the authority to express such views.

Haveri District In-charge Minister Shivanand Patil defended Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's statement suggesting a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), saying Kharge, as a national leader, has the authority to make such remarks. Speaking after inaugurating an Indira Canteen in Shiggaon on Sunday, Patil told reporters that Kharge had already clarified his position on the issue. "As a senior national leader, he has every right to express his opinion on matters concerning national harmony," Patil said.

Responding to questions on central grants, the minister stated that providing aid to states is the Union government's responsibility. "When crops are damaged, compensation should first come from the Centre under the NDRF, followed by state assistance," he added.

Highlighting state welfare measures, Patil said the government is committed to fulfilling all promises made to the public. "As Haveri's district minister, I have met many local demands and remain dedicated to addressing the rest," he assured.

The minister urged people, especially daily wage workers and the poor, to benefit from Indira Canteen and Anna Bhagya schemes, designed to ensure no one in the state goes hungry.

Recently, Kharge had said that the BJP and RSS were responsible for several law and order issues in the country and that banning the RSS was his personal opinion aimed at preserving national unity.

6 tamed elephants arrive in Sringeri to capture the wild elephant

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Following the tragic deaths of two villagers in a wild elephant attack at Kerekatte village in Sringeri taluk, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered an immediate capture operation. In response, six trained elephants — Ekalavya, Dhananjaya, Prashant, Harsha and two others — have been brought to the Kerekatte checkpost for the mission, which will begin on Monday.

The rogue elephant has been frequently sighted around Karemane village, damaging farms and plantations, creating panic among locals. On Saturday, it entered an areca plantation and caused heavy destruction. Earlier, the elephant had attacked and killed Harish and Umesh in separate incidents when they were near their homes.

Minister K.J. George visited the victims' families, offering condolences and announcing ₹5 lakh personal aid, while MLA T.D. Rajegowda contributed ₹1 lakh each. George also assured villagers that the elephant would be captured soon.

The recurring elephant attacks have angered residents, who allege forest officials have ignored repeated pleas for safety. Locals confronted officials, including the Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj and SP Vikram Amate, demanding stronger preventive measures and the minister's immediate visit. The villagers have warned of continuing protests until firm action is taken.

Veteran Islamic scholar Totti Mahin Ustad passes away

PUTTUR

Eminent Islamic scholar and Samastha Mushawara member Totti Mahin Ustad (75) passed away at his residence in the Fourth Mile area of Kasaragod on Sunday. Originally from Koringila in Puttur, he was widely respected as a teacher, spiritual guide, and community leader. He is survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters, and numerous disciples and admirers.

For over five decades, Ustad conducted Dars (religious teaching sessions) and mentored thousands of students who now serve as imams, teachers, and scholars across Dakshina Kannada, Kasaragod, and Kannur. His life was marked by simplicity, devotion to learning, and deep reverence for his teachers.

Born on October 19, 1950, to Baba Musliyar and Zainab at Koringila, he began his Quranic education under his mother and later studied under several renowned scholars, including Suleiman Noori Ustad and Abdul Khader Musliyar. After completing his religious studies at Pattikkad Jamia Nooria College, he earned the Faizi title in 1976 and began his teaching career at Adkar Juma Masjid in Jalsoor. He later served in various mosques, including those in Baalepuni, Uppinangady, and Pallikkara, where he worked as a Mudarris for 18 years and came to be known as "Totti Mahin Musliyar."

He authored Majalisul Bahja, a noted work on Islamic jurisprudence, and founded Al-Maktabathul Khateebiyya library in memory of his mentor. Islamic scholars and organizations, including Samastha President Jifri Muthukkoya Thangal, Jamiathul Ulama, and Bahjatul Ulama, expressed condolences, describing his death as a great loss to the community and religious education.

Min proposes compensation in place of new rehabilitation centers

BAGALKOTE

District In-charge Minister R.B. Thimmapura announced that the government is considering compensating residents of submerged villages with payments equal to their property value instead of constructing new rehabilitation centers. He noted that many centers built years ago remain incomplete, and around 30% of displaced families are still awaiting resettlement. "Providing fair compensation will help victims rebuild homes in locations of their choice," he said.

Thimmapura held meetings with officials, farmers, and workers to address sugarcane pricing and pending payments. He assured that the state's Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) rate would be enforced and instructed sugar factories to settle dues immediately.

Highlighting irregularities in the crop insurance scheme, the minister said middlemen had long exploited it, and the sub-divisional officer has been directed to conduct a detailed inquiry. Strict action will follow based on the findings.

Thimmapura also warned that signboards without Kannada language along district borders would invite penalties. He stated that identifying land for cemeteries is being prioritized to resolve long-standing local issues.

District Committee President Anil Kumar Daddi and other officials attended the review meeting. The minister concluded by saying that the final decision on the Chief Minister's appointment would rest with the Congress High Command.

Wisdom students urges action to resolve voter list confusion

MANGALURU

The 29th Profcon Global Professional Students Conference, organized by the Wisdom Islamic Students Organization, called for urgent measures to address public confusion surrounding the voter list revision (SIR). The meeting was inaugurated by former Deputy Commissioner and Profcon Reception Committee President A.B. Adoor Ibrahim (IAS) and presided over by Wisdom General Secretary T. Muhammad Shameel.

The gathering expressed concern over developments and allegations during the first phase of the voter list revision in Bihar, urging the government to act swiftly to restore public confidence. While the Election Commission clarified that the process aims to prevent fake and duplicate votes and include unregistered voters, opposition parties have accused the government of manipulating revisions to favor politically advantageous states — a charge described as serious by the forum.

The participants noted that frequent and exhaustive document verification during list updates burdens citizens. They suggested linking the voter list with Aadhaar to provide a permanent solution and prevent last-minute rushes to add names before elections. The conference also voiced concern that voters abroad and others might lose voting rights due to verification issues.

To ensure secular participation in every polling booth, the conference urged social and volunteer organizations to prepare for active involvement. Speakers included C.P. Saleem, Shameer Madini, Sirajj Sajipppa, and others.

Devotion to God leads to a blessed life: M.B. Puranik

UDUPI

"Life itself is a divine gift, and selfless service done with devotion reaches God," said noted thinker and social leader M.B. Puranik. Speaking at a special meeting organized by the Paryaya Reception Committee in Udupi, he emphasized that taking part in temple festivities and divine service is a sacred act. "For the people of Udupi, the Paryaya festival is a unique opportunity to serve the Almighty. Participating in it is truly the path to a blessed life," he remarked.

Puranik highlighted the spiritual and cultural importance of the biennial Paryaya tradition, which symbolizes dedication and community harmony. He urged devotees to contribute wholeheartedly to make the upcoming event a success.

The meeting also discussed preparations for the pre-Paryaya inspection scheduled for November 7, to be attended by Dr. Veerendra Heggade, the honorary president of the reception committee. Committee president Yashpal Suvarna requested the presence of all subcommittee members during the review meeting.

Dr. Udaykumar Saralathaya, the Math's Diwan, appealed for the cooperation of devotees to ensure the smooth conduct of the grand event. General Secretary Mattaru Ratnakar Hegde provided details about the ongoing arrangements and logistical planning for the festival.

Several dignitaries, including Gopalakrishna Asranna, Jayakar Shetty Indrali, Jayaprakash Kedlaya, Prasada Raj Kanchan, and Mohan Bhat, were present. Ashwattha Bharadwaj welcomed the guests and compered the program.

TRAGIC POND DEATHS

Mother and child found dead in farm pond in Kolar

KOLAR

A tragic incident occurred in Hogari Gollahalli village of Kolar taluk, where a woman and her five-year-old son were found dead in a farm pond early Sunday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Mala (35) and her son Chakravarthy (5), wife and son of Manjunath, a daily wage labourer. According to reports, Mala had gone to the field on Saturday afternoon after picking up her son from the Anganwadi school, as she regularly did, to collect fodder for the cattle. When the two did not return home by nightfall, worried family members began searching for them but were unable to locate them.

The next morning, villagers discovered their bodies floating in a nearby agricultural pond. Preliminary investigation suggests that Chakravarthy may have accidentally slipped into the pond, and his mother likely drowned while trying to rescue him.

Mala and Manjunath had been married for seven years and had only one child. The incident has left the family devastated, with relatives describing the deaths as an unforeseen tragedy in an otherwise peaceful household.

Police from Kolar Rural Station visited the site, conducted a preliminary inquiry, and have launched an investigation. Authorities suspect it to be an accidental drowning, as there were no signs of foul play or domestic conflict. The village remains in shock over the heartbreaking loss.

QUICK READ

Yallaling Dandin honoured with Rajyotsava award

Kalaburagi

In recognition of his contribution to literature, Yallaling Zharanappa Dandin from Chimmaidallayi village in Chincholi taluk was conferred the 2025 Rajyotsava Award. The award was presented by MLA and Tahsildar Dr. Avinash Jadhav at a ceremony organized by the Chincholi Taluk Administration. The event was attended by Municipal Chief Officer and Cluster Education Officer V. Lakshmaiah, Anand Tiger, Basavaraj Mali, Mallikarjun Palamoor, Ashok Hoovinabavi, Venkatesh Duggan, Santosh Gandanti, Maruti Ganjagiri, K.M. Bari, Suresh Deshpande, Shivraj Vali, Rajshekhar Mustari, Shivaprakash Kattimani, Sharanu Tegalatippi, and Wasim Akram. Presidents of various Kannada organizations were also present, adding grandeur to the occasion that celebrated literary excellence and regional pride.

India bags triple gold at M'luru International Badminton

Indian shuttlers bagged triple gold at the Yonex-Sunrise Chief Minister's International Challenge 2025, showcasing stellar performances across categories

MANGALURU

Indian shuttlers delivered a remarkable performance at the Yonex-Sunrise Chief Minister's Mangaluru India International Challenge 2025 held at the New Urva Indoor Stadium, clinching gold medals in three categories.

In the women's singles final, India's third-seeded Mansi Singh emerged victorious after defeating her compatriot, fourth-seeded Ashmita Chaliha, in straight sets 21-17, 22-20. Top-seeded Ritvik Sanjeev Satish Kumar triumphed in the men's singles, overcoming fellow Indian Raunak Chauhan in a thrilling three-set match (14-21, 21-19, 21-19) to claim the title.

The mixed doubles final saw India's second-seeded pair, Dhruv Rawat and Manisha K., display exceptional teamwork to defeat Thailand's Tanawin Myadee and Napaporn Tungkasathan 18-21, 21-18, 22-20 in a nail-biting finish that kept spectators on edge till the last point.

Meanwhile, Thailand's fifth-seeded duo, Hathaytip Mijd and Napakorn Tungkasathan, dominated the women's doubles final, defeating India's Srinidhi Narayanan and Reshika Uday Suryan 21-7, 21-11 to clinch gold. The Indian pair had to settle for the runners-up position.

In the men's doubles, it was an all-Singaporean clash as the top-seeded pair Eng Keit Wesley Koh and Junsuke Kubo outplayed compatriots Donovan Willard Wee and Jia Hao Howin Wong 21-12, 21-17 to secure the championship.

Speaker U.T. Khader, MP Brijesh Chowta, and MLA Vedavyas Kamath presented medals and mementos to the winners. Dakshina Kannada Badminton Association President Santosh and Secretary Supreeth Alva were also present at the event.

0.8 capacity TMC reservoir under Tubachi Project

VIJAYAPURA

Minister M.B. Patil announced plans for a 0.8 TMC reservoir near Babanagar to maximize water utilization under the Tubachi Babaleshwar project.

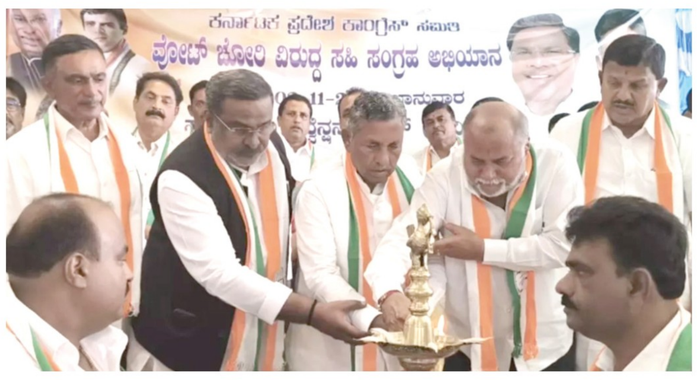
To ensure the optimal use of water allocated under the Tumbachi Babaleshwar irrigation project, the government will prepare and submit a detailed project report (DPR) for constructing a high-capacity reservoir with a storage capacity of 0.8 TMC near Babanagar, said Large and Medium Industries Minister and Vijayapura District In-charge M.B. Patil.

The minister visited the proposed project site near Babanagar in Tikota taluk, accompanied by officials and farmer leaders, to review the location and gather suggestions. He stated that all technical issues, if any, would be resolved while preparing the DPR before submitting it to the government for approval.

Patil pointed out that currently, only 2 TMC of the total allocated water is being utilized. Even after the full implementation of the Field Irrigation Channel (FIC), only 3 TMC will be used. To make efficient use of the remaining 2.5 TMC of water, the government plans to construct the 0.8 TMC reservoir, which will significantly enhance irrigation benefits in the region.

He emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure water availability for farmers throughout the year, contributing to sustainable agricultural growth.

Senior officials from the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (Belagavi Division), including Superintendent Engineer B.R. Rathod, Assistant Executive Engineer Ambanna, irrigation expert Dr. Huggi, as well as local farmers, leaders, and members of the public, were present during the inspection visit.



Muniappa says Rahul would have been PM with 30 more seats

DEVANAHALLI

Union Food Minister K.H. Muniappa stated that the people of India desire a secular coalition government, and had the Congress party secured 30 more Lok Sabha seats, Rahul Gandhi would have been the Prime Minister today.

He was speaking on Sunday at a meeting organized as part of a signature campaign related to the vote theft case, held at the BVK Geetha Convention Hall in Devanahalli, in the presence of local Congress leaders from Devanahalli and Vijayapura blocks.

Muniappa emphasized that secularism is essential for the nation's progress, warning that certain elements are attempting to disrupt communal harmony. He informed that AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and leaders of the opposition have been holding serious discussions on the matter and noted that evidence of vote theft in around 100 Lok Sabha constituencies has come to light.

Calling on party workers to remain vigilant, Muniappa said preventing such electoral malpractice is everyone's responsibility. He praised Devanahalli taluk for achieving the highest voter turnout and urged booth committee presidents and party workers to perform their duties with dedication to strengthen the organization.

He encouraged the cadres to continue consolidating the Congress presence across every hobli, ensuring that the fight against vote theft becomes a model movement for the state.

Reflecting on his long political journey, Muniappa added, "I have served the party for 40 years. The party comes first—before any individual."

The meeting was attended by District Guarantee Implementation Authority Chairman Rajanna, Bengaluru Rural Congress President C.R. Gowda, and several other local leaders and workers.

Lingayat community to protest in Delhi seeking separate religion

DAVANAGERE

The district convention of the Rashtriya Basava Dal passed several key resolutions, including staging a protest in Delhi demanding recognition of Lingayatism as a separate religion. The meeting also decided to hold demonstrations outside the residences of legislators who supported Kaneri Math seer Kadasiddeshwar Swamiji's controversial remarks against Lingayat pontiffs.

The convention, held at the Basava Mantapa in Saraswati Layout, also urged the government to grant minority religion status to Lingayats, promote Vachana literature across taluk and hobli centers, and re-examine the Justice Nagamohan Das report, which had earlier recommended recognition of the Lingayat religion.

Speaking on the occasion, Pandematti Gurubasava Swamiji stressed unity among Lingayats, saying, "Basava's tradition stands strong despite a few divisive voices. Those who speak ill of our pontiffs or principles are condemned even by the Supreme Court. We must remain firm in our philosophy and values." He urged followers to set aside internal differences and stand united to uphold Basava Dharma and its message.

The event was chaired by Y. Nareshappa, president of the district committee, and graced by Mate Gangadevi, head of the Kudalasangama Basava Peetha. Several prominent leaders and religious figures, including K. Vivek, M. Shivakumar, and K.B. Parameshappa, were also present.

Leopard attacks cow near Hireguddadaya Temple

ARAKERA

A leopard attacked a cow belonging to farmer Bheemanna Guntagol near the Hireguddadaya Temple close to the government high school in Kottadoddi village late Saturday night, causing panic among locals. Following the incident, forest officials visited the site, installed CCTV cameras, and began monitoring the leopard's movements.

Devadurga Range Forest Officer Mohammad Aliuddin stated that traps will be set up once the animal's movement is tracked. Authorities have also alerted residents to remain cautious during nighttime and advised parents to ensure children's safety while going to school. The unexpected leopard sighting has left villagers on edge, prompting calls for stronger safety measures in the area.

Public meeting seeks solutions to local civic issues

MOODBIDRI

Citizens of Moodbidri town, troubled by a host of civic problems, came together for a public grievance meeting on Saturday evening at the Samaja Mandira to discuss possible solutions and collective action.

Residents, bus owners, entrepreneurs, and representatives of various organizations attended the meeting, where issues such as traffic congestion, sanitation, triple riding by students, lack of public infrastructure, and weak policing were discussed in detail. In total, around 30 problems were raised during the session.

Participants decided to establish a citizens' group called "Namma Moodbidri Forum" to spearhead the campaign and submit a memorandum to the tahsildar, urging swift action and accountability.

Organiser Akshay Jain stated that the forum's aim is to highlight genuine civic concerns and push for lawful and practical remedies, not to blame any individual or institution. He emphasized that Namma Moodbidri Forum would function transparently and remain non-political.

Speakers including Purnachandra, advocate Irshad, Hanif, Yatiraj Shetty, journalist Yashodhar V. Bangera, Praveen Siqueira, Eric Lobo, Kaustubh Jain, Satish Shetty, and Rakshan shared their insights and suggestions.

A total of 87 participants, including students, members of social organizations, and local traders, took part. Having received little response from officials in the past, residents have now resolved to unite and find community-driven solutions to Moodbidri's persistent civic challenges.

MP Brijesh Chowta launches multiple development projects

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada MP Brijesh Chowta inaugurated several development works under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Fund within the Mangaluru Assembly constituency on Sunday.

He inaugurated the first cross road at Ullalbayil Vaidhyanath Nagar in Ullal and also performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of public toilets near the Someshwara Temple and Someshwara Beach. The Rs 18 lakh project, funded through the MPLAD scheme, aims to provide better facilities for devotees and tourists visiting the temple and beach areas.

Chowta also laid the foundation stone for the construction of two classrooms at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Moodipu. Later, he participated in the 'Yoga with Yodha' event organized on the premises of the Someshwara Temple as part of International Yoga Day celebrations.

Responding swiftly to requests from the temple administration for improved amenities, Chowta allocated funds from his MPLAD quota to initiate the work.

The event was attended by BJP Mangaluru Assembly President Jagadish Alva, former MEI Chairman Santosh Kumar Boliyar, Someshwara Town Municipality President Kamala and Vice-President Ravishankar Someshwar, Kotekar Town Panchayat President Divya Shetty, temple trustee Sadashiva Bangera, principal Rajesh of Navodaya School, and several BJP leaders and civic representatives.

Statue of Rani Abbakka unveiled in Moodbidri

MOODBIDRI

A statue of the legendary queen Rani Abbakka was unveiled in Moodbidri on Saturday by District-in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. The event was organized by the Jawahar Bedra Sanghatana in front of the Chowtar Palace. Minister Rao announced that he would write a letter to the Education Minister to include Rani Abbakka's history in school textbooks, emphasizing the importance of introducing the brave queen's story to young people.

Swamiji Swasti Shri Bhattaraka Charukirti Panditacharya of the Jain Math praised Rani Abbakka's courage and patriotism, saying they serve as an inspiration to women. Prabhat Balnad, Principal of Jain Pre-University College, narrated the history of Rani Abbakka's fight against the Portuguese.

The event also saw the submission of a demand letter to the minister, requesting the upgrade of the Moodbidri Primary Health Center, establishment of a government blood bank, and the start of a Rani Abbakka Research Center. Prominent figures, including K. Abhayachandra Jain, Mithun Rai, and Municipal President Jayashree Keshav, attended the event.

The unveiling of the statue and the demands raised highlight the continued relevance of Rani Abbakka's legacy and the need to preserve and promote the region's history and culture.

MOTHER CONFRONTS POLICE

Mother storms police station after son's suicide attempt

DAVANAGERE

A shocking incident unfolded in Davanagere district after a young man, allegedly tortured by police during interrogation, attempted suicide. The youth, identified as Kiran from Chikkabennur village in Channagiri taluk, was reportedly detained for three days in connection with a robbery case and subjected to severe abuse. Unable to bear the harassment, he attempted to hang himself at home and is now battling for life in a hospital.

Kiran's mother, devastated by her son's condition, stormed into the Santhebennur police station and angrily confronted the officers, particularly CPM Linganagowda, accusing them of torture. Locals intervened to prevent the situation from escalating further.

The incident traces back to a September 7 robbery at a farmhouse in Kakanur village, where elderly residents were attacked. Police had taken several youths, including Kiran, for questioning. His family claims that officers forced him to confess and tortured him when he denied involvement.

Before his suicide attempt, Kiran reportedly recorded a statement on his phone, which remains locked. His family alleges that the video holds crucial evidence of police brutality. District in-charge Minister S.S. Mallikarjun has directed the Superintendent of Police to conduct a detailed investigation into the case.

Kiran, who was married only seven months ago, remains in critical condition with visible injuries. His family continues to demand justice and strict action against the officers responsible.

QUICK READ

Vehicle checks by cops delay newspaper supply in Punjab

Chandigarh

The distribution of newspapers was significantly delayed across various parts of Punjab on Sunday after police conducted checks on vehicles carrying newspaper bundles from printing centers to different cities. According to reports, the Punjab Police teams acted on specific intelligence inputs suggesting possible drug and weapon smuggling through commercial and delivery vehicles. As part of the operation, police stopped and searched several newspaper-carrying vehicles across the state. Dog squads were deployed at multiple locations, and in some cases, vehicles were taken to police stations for detailed inspection.

Serial accident kills father-son, injures another

Palghar

A man and his son were killed while another person was seriously injured when a speeding truck crashed into an autorickshaw and then hit a motorcycle in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred at Pelhar in Nalasopara (East) and was captured in a CCTV installed in the area, they said.

Govt to issue bus safety checklist for RTOs after fire accidents

New delhi

As most sleeper coaches and long-haul buses remain outside the ambit of the mandatory Bus Body Code that came into effect in September 2025, providing an easy escape for operators and local transport authorities, the government is set to issue a mandatory checklist of safety features that regional transport offices (RTOs) must verify while renewing registration and fitness certificates.Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari this week held a meeting on the recent bus fire incidents in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, and directed officials to take necessary steps, including writing to state govts for stricter enforcement and compliance of notified norms by transport departments.

Uphold India's knowledge traditions: Prez to students

Murmu calls for collective national effort, stressing women's pivotal contribution in achieving India's development goals by 2047.

HARIDWAR

President Draupadi Murmu on Sunday underscored the importance of united national cooperation to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, calling for active participation from every section of society, especially women.

Addressing the second convocation ceremony of Patanjali University as the chief guest, President Murmu praised the institution for its commitment to holistic education and its emphasis on traditional Indian knowledge systems alongside modern learning. She said that true progress can only be achieved when women are equally empowered and given opportunities to excel in all sectors, including education, science, and governance.

Highlighting the increasing presence of women in higher education, the President expressed her happiness over the fact that 62 per cent of the students enrolled at Patanjali University and 64 per cent of the graduates receiving degrees at the convocation were girls. This is a strong indicator that the women of India are not only embracing education but are also leading the way toward building a developed and self-reliant nation, she remarked.

Murmu further noted that education is the cornerstone of national growth and that nurturing moral values and discipline among students is as important as academic excellence. She appreciated Patanjali University's efforts to promote value-based education rooted in Indian culture and spirituality.

The President concluded her address by urging students to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation and contribute meaningfully to the realisation of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, where equality, innovation, and sustainability form the pillars of India's progress.

Five-time MLA Mainul Haque passes away

KOLKATA

Mainul Haque, a former five-time Congress MLA from Farakka Assembly constituency in West Bengal's Murshidabad, who later joined the Trinamool Congress, passed away on Sunday, party sources confirmed.

He was 63-years-old and had suffered a cardiac arrest in September. Since then he has been undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kolkata. However, on Sunday morning, he breathed his last. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to social media to condole Haque's death.

In an X post on Sunday, Chief Minister Banerjee said, I express my deepest condolences on the demise of my political colleague Moinul Haque. He was a former legislator from Farakka constituency and has been working with us at the top level of the party for the past few years. My deepest sympathy goes to his family, friends, and supporters.

Mainul Haque entered politics with Congress. He started his political career as a student leader. In 1996, he became the MLA from Farakka Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district for the first time on a Congress ticket. He defeated the then CPI-M MLA from that constituency, Abu Hasnat Khan.

Later, Mainul Haque won from the Farakka Assembly constituency five times consecutively on a Congress ticket. He was always on the Opposition seats in West Bengal Assembly.

While in Congress, he became a member of the AICC (All India Congress Committee). He worked as a Congress observer in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time.

Vijay slams EC's vote roll revision, calls DMK's all-party meet 'political theatre'

CHENNAI

In a strong political statement, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay has launched a sharp attack on both the Election Commission (EC) and the ruling DMK government, alleging that the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu is unconstitutional, politically motivated, and a serious threat to democracy.

Boycotting the all-party meeting convened by the DMK on Sunday to discuss the SIR process, Vijay said the exercise could lead to mass voter deletions, drawing parallels to the large-scale removal of minority voters reported in Bihar during a similar revision. He questioned the EC's decision to complete verification of over 6.36 crore voters in just 30 days, calling it an impractical and non-transparent move that undermines democratic rights.

The EC's decision to complete verification of over 6.36 crore voters in just 30 days is an impractical and a non-transparent move that undermines democratic rights

—Joseph Vijay, TVK president

Accusing the DMK of stage-managing the meeting to divert attention from corruption scandals, Vijay said that if the ruling party truly opposed the SIR, it should have passed a resolution against it in the Assembly, as done by Kerala. He described the meeting as a deceptive political theatre meant to mislead the public.

Vijay also proposed seven key recommendations to ensure a fair voter roll revision — including deleting fake entries, adding all eligible voters, accepting Aadhaar as proof of identity, and ensuring the final rolls are digitally accessible to citizens and political parties. He further urged the EC to involve local representatives and independent observers to prevent manipulation.

Reaffirming his commitment to democratic values, Vijay announced that the TVK would launch statewide awareness campaigns to monitor voter verification camps and safeguard citizens' rights. TVK stands firmly with the people — for democracy, for rights, and for justice, he declared.

Vijay's criticism aligns with growing opposition from several Tamil Nadu parties who fear that the SIR process could be exploited ahead of the Assembly elections.

Horses take centre stage at Pushkar Fair

JAIPUR

The renowned Pushkar annual cattle fair in Rajasthan, traditionally a hub for camel and bovine sales, saw a significant shift in trends this year with a remarkable increase in the sale of Marwadi and Kathiawadi horses.

This overshadowed the traditional livestock sales, marking a notable change in buyer preferences.

According to the state animal husbandry department, as of Friday, 224 horses have been sold for an estimated Rs 75 lakh. The department also addressed and dismissed social media claims of exorbitantly priced horse sales, clarifying that the highest price recorded so far is Rs 4.6 lakh for a horse sold by a Jaipur-based owner to a buyer from Uttarakhand.

Traditionally, the fair has been a marketplace for cows and buffaloes but buyers are now shifting their focus towards horses. For the last few years, this has been a trend as people are inclined towards purchasing horses, which in rural areas are still a mode of transportation, a senior officer from the animal husbandry department said.

Following horses, camels have also seen significant sales, with 207 camels sold for a total of Rs 35 lakh by Oct 30. In contrast, only five buffaloes and one cow have been sold at the fair. People are interested in horses and camels as a means of transportation. In many districts, camel carts and horse carts are still used for transporting food grain to mandi (wholesale markets), Sunil Ghiya, joint director of animal husbandry.

Ghiya also refuted social media claims of a horse being sold for over a crore rupees, confirming the most expensive horse was sold for Rs 4.6 lakh by Kailash, a resident of Amber near Jaipur, to one Dilip Choudhary of Haridwar in Uttarakhand.

India's Western front set for giant multi-domain 'Exercise Trishul'

NEW DELHI

The Western Naval Command will spearhead the operations, which will unfold across the creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat, extending into the northern Arabian Sea from Nov 3 to 13

Months after the successful Operation Sindoor, which struck terror camps deep inside Pakistan, the Indian Security Forces are set to conduct Exercise Trishul, a large-scale tri-service military exercise involving the Indian Navy, Army, and Air Force along the western border with Pakistan.

According to defence officials, the exercise will commence on November 3 and continue till November 13, with the Indian Navy taking the lead in close coordination with the Army and Air Force. The Headquarters Western Naval Command will spearhead the operations, which will unfold across the creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat, extending into the northern Arabian Sea.

The tri-services exercise will witness participation from the Army's Southern Command, the Navy's Western Command, and the Air Force's South-Western Command. The Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, and other central agencies will also take part, reflecting a strong emphasis on inter-agency coordination.

Officials stated that the exercise aims to validate and synchronise joint operational procedures, improve interoperability, and enhance integrated network operations across multiple domains — land, air, sea, cyber, and space. A key focus will be on achieving seamless coordination between the services during large-scale amphibious and maritime operations.

Highlighting the scale of the operation, the exercise will feature Indian Navy warships, Indian Air Force fighter and support aircraft, and amphibious landings involving the Indian Army's amphibious units alongside naval assets such as INS Jalashwa and Landing Craft Utility vessels (LCUs).

Additionally, the forces will test joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Electronic Warfare (EW), and Cyber Warfare capabilities, reinforcing India's readiness for integrated operations and its commitment to maintaining robust defence preparedness along the western front.

3 arrested for sexually assaulting minor girl in Dum Dum

KOLKATA

The police have arrested three youth for raping a minor in Dum Dum area on the northern outskirts of Kolkata, the police said on Sunday, adding that the incident took place on November 1 evening.

It is learnt that the minor girl, a resident of Dum Dum, is a seventh-grade student. She had gone to study in a private tuition. On her way back, she met a friend.

It has been learnt that they sat in Kamalapur Park and chatted for a long time. Later, two more persons joined in. It is alleged the three friends then forcibly took the minor girl in a (toto) battery-powered auto rickshaw. She tried her best to escape, but she was not successful. The accused took the minor girl to Harijan Basti at Motilal Colony No. 2 where she was allegedly gang-raped in a hut by the three youths.

According to the police, the 14-year-old girl somehow managed to escape from the accused and returned home. Seeing her in such a condition, the family became suspicious. When her parents pressed, the victim narrated her ordeal. The victim filed a written complaint at the Dum Dum Police Station on late November 1.

Based on her complaint, the police arrested three accused youths. The victim's family demanded the stringent punishment for the arrested accused. The arrested youths will be produced to Barrackpore court where the police will seek their custody.

A senior officer of Barrackpore Police Commissionerate said, As soon as we received the complaint from the family of the minor, our officers swung into action. Three accused youths have been arrested and a case has been registered under relevant sections.

IN NEW ROLE

Lt Gen Avinash Das takes over as Commandant of Army Referral Hospital

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant General Avinash Das, a distinguished officer with nearly four decades of service in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), has assumed charge as the Commandant of the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), the apex medical institution of the Indian Army, the Defence Ministry announced on Sunday.

An alumnus of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Lt Gen Das is a highly accomplished ENT surgeon with a remarkable record of clinical excellence, leadership, and administrative expertise. Taking charge he brings a wealth of experience from various key appointments, including serving as Senior Advisor at Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt, and Command Hospital, Lucknow.

Throughout his illustrious career, Lt Gen Das has been recognised with multiple honours, including commendation cards from the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee (CISC), and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), for his exceptional service and leadership. As Commandant of the Command Hospital (Northern Command), he successfully led the relocation of the Udhampur hospital to a new state-of-the-art facility, enhancing healthcare access for personnel in the region.

His new role at Army Hospital (R&R) is expected to further advance the institution's legacy of excellence in patient care, medical innovation, and research. He aims to strengthen the hospital's role as a centre of excellence in military medicine, serving both the armed forces and civilians.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry also announced key appointments in the Indian Navy. Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh has assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel, while Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar has taken over as the 40th Chief of Materiel. Vice Admiral Singh, an NDA alumnus and Gunnery and Missiles specialist, has held several prestigious sea and shore appointments.

Odisha SI recruitment scam mastermind held in Uttarakhand

BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police arrested Shankar Prusty, the alleged mastermind behind the police sub-inspector recruitment scam, from Uttarakhand, close to the border with Nepal, early on Sunday morning.

Police sources said Prusty, who had been absconding ever since the irregularities in the SI recruitment scam came to light last month, was planning to flee to Dubai from Nepal.

Following arrest and transit remand, Prusty was brought to the Crime Branch office in Bhubaneswar for further questioning. Talking to reporters at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Prusty denied allegations against him and said that he has applied for anticipatory bail in the Orissa High Court.

At least three teams of the Crime Branch have been conducting raids at various places to arrest Prusty since last month. Earlier, the Crime Branch arrested two key associates of Prusty, Munna Monaty and Arabinda Das and seven other middlemen who were allegedly engaged to contact aspirants, and collect money and blank cheques from them. Prusty is the leader of the syndicate and operates through his agents to escape scrutiny.

He was actively monitoring the operations while his agents contacted aspiring candidates, collected original certificates and blank cheques. The certificates and blank cheques were to be returned after the deal amount Rs 20 to 25 lakh, was paid, Originally from Odisha's Ganjam district, Prusty is the director of Bhubaneswar-based Panchsoft Technologies Pvt Ltd, the private entity engaged as a sub-contractor in the exam process.

QUICK READ

3 Bengaluru medical students drown in Kerala beach

Thiruvananthapuram

In a tragic incident, three medical students from Bengaluru lost their lives after being swept away by strong waves at the Payyambalam beach in Kerala's Kannur on Sunday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Afnan, Rahanuddeen, and Afras, all hailing from Karnataka and students of a medical college in Bengaluru. According to police sources, the students were part of an eight-member group who had come to Kannur on a leisure trip and ventured into the sea despite warnings about rough conditions. Eyewitnesses said the tragedy occurred around 7 a.m. when the group entered the water for a swim.

57-year-old female bootlegger held in Delhi

New Delhi

A 57-year-old woman, allegedly involved in repeated bootlegging activities, was arrested by Delhi Police after over 1,300 litres of illicit liquor were recovered from her possession in North-East Delhi's Jyoti Nagar area, an official said on Sunday. According to police, the incident occurred during evening patrolling when Constable Rajdeep and Woman Constable Bhawna noticed the woman sitting outside her house with a covered bucket. Finding her behaviour suspicious, the team checked the bucket and discovered several liquor quarters inside. Following the discovery, police conducted a raid at the premises and recovered a total of 7,309 quarters, amounting to 1,315.62 litres; of illegal liquor marked For sale in Haryana only.

Stalin accuses BJP of manipulating democracy

Chennai

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Union government, accusing it of manipulating democracy by misusing the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to engineer selective voter cleansing ahead of the upcoming elections. Speaking to reporters after flagging off the MRTI Chargebee Chennai Runs 2025 marathon from Napier Bridge, Udhayanidhi Stalin alleged that the BJP was retaining favourable votes and removing unfavourable ones in states facing elections.

VP: Libraries continue to be vital knowledge hubs amid digital push

CP Radhakrishnan praises libraries as vital spaces fostering knowledge, reflection, and empowerment in the digital age

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday described libraries as temples of learning, emphasising their role in nurturing critical thinking, promoting authentic knowledge, and empowering individuals and communities.

Addressing the International Conference on 'Libraries Empowering Communities, Global Perspectives' through a video message, the Vice President said that in an era dominated by digital content and rapid information flow, libraries continue to serve as vital knowledge hubs. They not only provide access to credible information but also foster a culture of deep learning and meaningful dialogue, he said.

In an era dominated by digital content and rapid information flow, libraries continue to serve as vital knowledge hubs.

—CP Radhakrishnan, Vice President

The conference, organised by the PN Panicker Foundation at Kanakakkunnu Palace, marked the 80th year of Kerala's organised library movement an initiative inspired by Panicker, revered as the pioneer of India's library and literacy revolution.

Commending the Foundation's contributions, Radhakrishnan lauded its efforts in promoting reading habits, digital literacy, and community empowerment. He highlighted its enduring motto Vayichu Valaruka (Read and Grow) as a guiding light for social progress and inclusivity.

Reflecting on India's civilizational ethos, the Vice President drew parallels between the nation's ancient traditions of learning and its modern institutions of knowledge. He recalled how spiritual leaders like Adi Shankaracharya travelled across India to spread awareness, unify diverse thoughts, and promote enlightenment, a legacy that continues through the library movement.

Radhakrishnan also praised Kerala's outstanding achievements in literacy and education, noting that the state remains a model for the nation. Paying rich tributes to P. N. Panicker, he said his vision transformed libraries into vibrant community centres that continue to inspire generations to embrace reading, knowledge, and lifelong learning.

8 militants held in Manipur crackdown; arms, explosives seized

The coordinated operations underscore ongoing efforts to maintain peace and curb militant activities in the strife-hit state

IMPHAL

In a major counter-insurgency operation, security forces arrested eight militants belonging to various banned extremist organisations across five districts of Manipur in the past 24 hours, officials confirmed on Sunday. The coordinated operations underscore ongoing efforts to maintain peace and curb militant activities in the strife-hit state.

According to police officials, the arrested individuals were associated with proscribed outfits including the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The arrests were made in Jiribam, Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, and Kakching districts.

Officials said the militants were involved in several criminal activities, including intimidation, extortion, and forcible collection of money from residents, government employees, and contractors. During the raids, security forces recovered small arms, an improvised explosive device (IED), Aadhaar and PAN cards, several mobile phones, additional SIM cards, and a car used in illegal activities.

In a separate operation, arms and ammunition were seized from the mountainous Kangpokpi district. The recovered items included five locally made bolt-action single-barreled guns, two wireless communication sets, and combat gear, indicating the presence of organised militant groups operating in the region.

Manipur Police said 115 checkpoints have been established across both hill and valley districts to monitor the movement of insurgent elements and suspicious vehicles. Security forces are also providing armed escorts to convoys carrying essential commodities along the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37) to ensure safe transportation.

Authorities have urged citizens not to believe or spread rumours and to verify any unconfirmed information through official sources. Uploading or circulating fake posts or videos on social media will invite strict legal action, the police cautioned, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining law and order across the state.

Robust judicial system essential for democracy: Yogi

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the 4th Convocation Ceremony of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University on Sunday, congratulating the graduating students and wishing them success in their future endeavors.

The Chief Minister said that the University is a matter of pride for both Uttar Pradesh as well as the nation and credited the law graduates for playing a vital role in strengthening of country's judicial system. CM Yogi Adityanath said that for India, dharma is a way of life, not mere worship, and that fulfilling one's duties faithfully is true religion.

He emphasized that a robust judicial system is essential for democracy, stating, The stronger the judiciary, the easier it becomes to achieve the objectives of good governance.

Referring to the ancient ideal of Ram Rajya, he said just and impartial governance can be realized today through modern systems of good governance.

Highlighting the government's efforts to strengthen the judiciary, the Chief Minister said the state administration is promoting e-Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Cyber Law training, and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

He added that modern infrastructure -- including classrooms, sports complexes, and hostels -- is being developed across universities, alongside skill development and training for judicial officers, prosecutors, police, and administrative officials.

Lakshadweep woman diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's Kochi has reported its first case of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare but potentially fatal brain infection, after a 25-year-old woman from Lakshadweep tested positive for the disease. The patient, who resides in a hostel in the city, is currently under treatment at a private hospital and is said to be in stable condition. According to health officials, the woman was admitted with symptoms of fever and headache.

Initial diagnostic tests for amoebic encephalitis returned negative, but a third wet-mount microscopic examination confirmed the presence of

the amoeba. She is totally stable and recovering well. We understand she had recently visited a resort, but the exact timeline is being verified to determine the incubation period, a Health Department official said.

This case comes amid rising concern over the spread of the infection across Kerala. So far this year, the state has recorded 153 cases and 33 deaths attributed to amoebic meningoencephalitis.

The most recent fatality was a 65-year-old woman from Palathara in Kollam district. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is currently conducting a detailed study on the disease in Kerala, focusing on identifying sources and patterns of transmission. Surveys are being carried out across four districts --Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kollam.

In October alone, 65 new cases were confirmed, indicating a worrying rise in infections. Health officials have warned that the infection, caused by free-living amoebae commonly found in contaminated water sources.

Jogi Ramesh arrest is pure political vendetta: Jagan

AMARAVATI

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday strongly condemned the arrest of party leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh in connection with the spurious liquor case.

He alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was orchestrating a political vendetta to cover up his government's own involvement in fake liquor operations.

In a detailed statement following the arrest by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), Jagan Mohan Reddy claimed that Naidu had been caught red-handed after the exposure of spurious liquor factories. To escape accountability, Naidu has shamelessly conspired to arrest a backward class leader of the YSRCP. This is clearly an illegal and politically motivated arrest, Reddy stated.

Reddy further asserted that the seized spurious liquor belonged to Naidu's current tenure. Those caught from your MLA candidates to close aides are linked to you, your son, ministers, and MLAs. The fake liquor you produced is being sold through private liquor shops and belt shops run by your party workers, he alleged. The former Chief Minister also claimed that the arrest was intended to divert public attention from the recent Kasibugga temple stampede and the plight of farmers affected by Cyclone Montha.

Highlighting that Ramesh had filed a petition in the High Court seeking a CBI probe into the liquor issue just a day before his arrest, Reddy questioned the timing. If you have nothing to hide, why fear a CBI inquiry? he asked, adding that the SIT was acting under Naidu's influence. Reddy concluded by warning that the government's demonic rule was eroding democratic values and targeting opposition voices.

Assam CM seeks expansion of railway network

NEW DELHI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Sunday, met the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi and sought a comprehensive expansion of the railway network in the north-eastern state to strengthen regional and cross-border connectivity.

During the meeting, which lasted nearly 25 minutes at the Railway Minister's official residence, Chief Minister Sarma made a series of proposals aimed at improving transport links within Assam and with neighbouring regions. He requested the introduction of three new Amrit Bharat trains to and from the state, alongside the creation of a new rail corridor connecting Umrangso in Dima Hasao district with Lanka in Hojai district.

The proposed link, the Chief Minister said, would not only enhance intra-state connectivity but also open new avenues for tourism and economic growth in the hilly

regions of Assam.

Chief Minister Sarma also urged the Railway Ministry to expedite work on the proposed Kokrajhar-Gelephu Mindfulness City railway line, which would link Assam with Bhutan's upcoming Mindfulness City at Gelephu.

The cross-border project, he said, holds immense potential for boosting trade, tourism, and cultural exchange between the two countries. Chief Minister Sarma also appealed for more stoppages of major long-distance trains passing through Assam, citing the need to provide better access for passengers from smaller towns and rural areas. He said that these measures would make rail transport more inclusive and accessible for the people of the state.

According to an official statement, Union Railway Minister Vaishnaw responded positively to the Chief Minister's proposals and assured that the Ministry would implement the suggested measures in a time-bound manner. Later, taking to social media platform X, CM Sarma described the discussion as very productive and shared that the Railway Minister had kindly consented to all the action points.

A LASTING MEMORY

'He was Telugu strength, my best friend': Naidu pays tribute to Yerrannaidu

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday paid rich tributes to late party stalwart and former Union Minister Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu on his 13th death anniversary, describing him as a symbol of high values and a people's leader who left an indelible mark on both state and national politics.

In a heartfelt post on X, Naidu called Yerrannaidu the beloved son of Uttarandhra and praised his integrity, dedication, and statesmanship. "He was Telugu strength, my best friend, and a leader who lived for the people," Naidu wrote, recalling his close association with the late leader and his tireless work for the welfare of the poor and marginalized sections.

Yerrannaidu's son, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, also took to social media to remember his father as a visionary leader and tireless advocate who dedicated his life to serving the people of Srikakulam. His legacy of compassion, commitment, and unwavering service continues to inspire generations, he wrote, expressing gratitude for his father's enduring influence.

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, too, paid glowing tributes, highlighting Yerrannaidu's lifelong commitment to North Andhra's development and his contributions to national politics. He earned a special place in people's hearts and remains immortal through his selfless service, Lokesh said.

Born into a family rooted in public service, Yerrannaidu entered politics in 1982, inspired by TDP founder N. T. Rama Rao. Over his distinguished career, he served four terms each as MLA and MP, including a tenure as Union Minister for Rural Development from 1996 to 1998. Representing Srikakulam in the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 2004, Yerrannaidu is remembered as a leader who championed the cause of the people with integrity and compassion.

Grateful to PM Modi for historical transformation of J&K: J&K L-G

SRINAGAR

J&K Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, said on Sunday that physical fitness events like the 'Kashmir Marathon' prove that a society can, through physical and mental fitness and emotional stability, overcome its fatigue and use its strength in a disciplined manner.

The L-G was addressing the award ceremony of the second edition of the Kashmir marathon here today after the successful completion of the run. All the prizes of this marathon were lifted by Kenyan athletes. The L-G said, International events like this provide us an opportunity to showcase our handicrafts and handlooms in addition to the promotion of tourism.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the land of communal harmony and peace. I am grateful to PM Modi for the historical transformation of this land into a Jammu Kashmir of modernity and spirituality, which is today moving forward, driven by willing passion and resolution." He said. "I am sure you will cherish and notice the change & transformation and enjoy our hospitality. I call upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to use this international opportunity to showcase our unique tradition and culture. Showcase our arts and crafts," he said.

He said that participants from 11 foreign countries have taken part in the marathon. I am proud to say that within just two years, the Kashmir marathon has become an international event. Let me tell our foreign friends that Jammu Kashmir is the crown jewel of India and it has a rich heritage and culture, the L-G said.

He also said that he is hopeful that the 'Jammu Marathon' will also be started soon, and these international events will give economic support and a wider reach to our tourism. I a sure that in the days to come, this marathon will become the most beautiful marathon destination in the World.

QUICK READ

Turkey to urge swift action on Gaza peace plan

Istanbul

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will urge immediate steps to ensure Gaza's security and administration under Palestinian control during a key meeting in Istanbul on Monday, a Turkish foreign ministry source said. The gathering, which includes ministers from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan, Pakistan, and Indonesia, will focus on strengthening the Gaza ceasefire and addressing humanitarian needs. Fidan is expected to stress the need for coordinated action among Muslim nations to turn the truce into lasting peace, accusing Israel of "making excuses" to undermine the ceasefire. He will also highlight insufficient humanitarian aid entering Gaza and call for stronger international pressure on Israel, as Ankara-Israel relations continue to deteriorate.

Syrian president to visit White House in early November

Washington

Syrian Foreign Minister Asad al-Shaibani announced on Sunday that President Ahmed al-Sharaa will visit the White House in early November, marking the first official trip by a Syrian leader to Washington. The visit, expected around November 10, will focus on Syria's reconstruction, lifting of U.S. sanctions, and establishing stronger bilateral ties, Shaibani said. U.S. Special Envoy Tom Barrack confirmed the plans earlier, noting growing engagement between the two nations. Since taking power from Bashar al-Assad last December, Sharaa has sought to restore Syria's global standing through a series of diplomatic visits.

UK TRAIN KNIFE ATTACK NOT TERROR-LINKED, SAY POLICE

British police ruled out terrorism in a knife attack on a London-bound train that injured 11 passengers, arresting two British men in connection with the incident

HUNTINGDON

British police confirmed on Sunday that the knife attack on a London-bound train that left 11 passengers injured was not being treated as a terrorist incident. Two British nationals in their 30s have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder following the mass stabbing, which occurred on a London North Eastern Railway (LNER) service near Huntingdon, around 130 km north of London.

British Transport Police Superintendent John Loveless said both suspects — a 32-year-old black British man and a 35-year-old of Caribbean descent — were born in the UK. "At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that this

is a terrorist incident," Loveless told reporters, declining to comment on the motive. The suspects were detained by armed officers after the train made an emergency stop.

Of the 11 hospitalised victims, four have been discharged, while two remain in critical condition.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the incident "appalling and deeply concerning," and King Charles III said he was "truly appalled and shocked."

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood urged the public to refrain from speculation, warning against misinformation on social media — a concern heightened since the 2024 Southport riots that followed false online claims.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic and bloodshed, with one passenger telling the BBC that "there was blood on all the chairs." Another witness told Sky News the suspect was wielding a large knife before being tasered by police.

Britain's terrorism threat level remains "substantial", meaning an attack is considered likely.

Donald Trump warns of military action in Nigeria

WASHINGTON/ABUJA

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened rapid military intervention in Nigeria, accusing the West African nation of failing to curb the killings of Christians. In a Truth Social post, Trump said he had ordered the Pentagon to prepare for "fast" action and announced an immediate halt to U.S. aid to Nigeria, calling it a "disgraced country."

"If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet," Trump wrote, claiming without evidence that Islamic extremists were "wiping out" Christians. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth echoed the warning on X, saying the U.S. Department of War was "preparing for action."

Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu rejected allegations of religious intolerance, asserting that Nigeria "safeguards freedom of religion and belief for all citizens" under its constitution. The country's Foreign Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to fight extremism while maintaining close ties with Washington, emphasizing that Nigeria "will continue to defend all citizens irrespective of faith."

Trump wrote that any strike would be "swift, fierce and decisive," alleging—without providing evidence—that Islamic extremists were "wiping out" Christians; Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth echoed the warning on X

The warning came a day after the Trump administration reclassified Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" for religious freedom violations—reversing its 2021 removal under President Biden.

While Nigeria continues to battle Boko Haram and other extremist groups, analysts note that most victims of such violence have been Muslims. Still, some U.S. lawmakers and religious groups have praised Trump's move, urging stronger action against what they describe as "Christian persecution" in Africa's most populous nation.

3 killed, 5 injured as truck overturns in southern Afghan

KABUL

Three people, including a woman, were killed and five others injured, among them four children, after a truck overturned in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday. The accident occurred on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah city's Police District 10 when the vehicle, carrying a family relocating to another area, overturned due to reckless driving, according to the provincial information and culture department. Earlier this week, similar accidents in eastern Afghanistan's Laghman province claimed several lives, highlighting the ongoing road safety crisis. Authorities say most crashes are caused by reckless driving, poor road conditions, and inadequate traffic signs. Road accidents remain a major cause of fatalities across the country.

The Philippines and Canada have signed a landmark military pact to deepen defence cooperation amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions

Philippines, Canada ink troop pact to strengthen defence cooperation

MANILA

The Philippines and Canada on Sunday signed a landmark agreement allowing their armed forces to train and operate on each other's soil, marking a major step in strengthening defence ties amid growing regional tensions in the Indo-Pacific.

The pact, known as the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA), is Canada's first such deal in the region and the fifth for the Philippines. It expands Manila's network of military partnerships, complementing its long-standing alliance with the United States.

Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said the agreement reinforces a commitment to maintaining a "rules-based international order." The SOVFA establishes a framework for deeper cooperation and smoother coordination between both nations' armed forces during joint exercises and operations.

Canada has consistently backed the Philippines' position in the South China Sea, supporting the 2016 international tribunal ruling that dismissed Beijing's expansive maritime claims—an outcome China continues to reject.

The two countries have also collaborated on maritime security, with the Philippines using Canada's Dark Vessel Detection System to track illegal fishing activities.

Manila is pursuing similar troop agreements with Britain and France, having already ratified a reciprocal access deal with Japan last year and holding one with Australia.

The signing follows recent U.S.-Philippine military exercises in the South China Sea, which drew sharp criticism from China for allegedly undermining regional stability. The new Canada-Philippines pact underscores Manila's growing network of defence allies in response to China's assertive behavior.

Special counsel suspects ex-first lady Kim's role in personnel favors

SEOUL

South Korea's special counsel has found evidence suggesting former First Lady Kim Keon Hee influenced appointments in the presidential office during President Yoon Suk Yeol's administration. Special Counsel Min Joong-ki said a shaman linked to Kim's bribery case sought appointments for eight people after the 2022 election; two later joined the presidential office, and one became a consul general.

Kim, already indicted for stock manipulation, bribery mediation, and political fund violations, is the first former president's spouse tried in custody. She allegedly conspired with Deutsch Motors' ex-chairman to manipulate stock prices, earning ₩810 million between 2010 and 2012. Investigators also say she accepted luxury gifts worth ₩80 million and political favours. Legal experts, however, note proving her guilt could be difficult since she held no official post.

Deadly blaze in Mexico store claims 23 lives, including children

MEXICO CITY

A weekend of Day of the Dead celebrations turned into tragedy in northwestern Mexico when a massive fire broke out at a discount store in Hermosillo, killing at least 23 people, including children, and injuring several others.

Authorities said most victims died from inhaling toxic fumes as the blaze swept through the store on Saturday afternoon. Sonora Governor Alfonso Durazo confirmed a full investigation has been ordered to determine the cause of the fire, which occurred at a branch of the popular discount chain Waldo's.

President Claudia Sheinbaum expressed condolences to the victims' families and announced that emergency support teams were dispatched to assist survivors and relatives. Sonora's Red Cross deployed 40 responders and 10 ambulances to help transport the injured to hospitals.

State Attorney General Gustavo Salas said forensic teams were working to identify all the victims, while investigators were probing whether the fire resulted from an electrical fault or a possible explosion.

Local officials ruled out any attack or foul play. The city's fire chief said the scene remains under investigation to determine the exact sequence of events that led to the devastating blaze.

The tragedy cast a shadow over Mexico's vibrant Day of the Dead festivities, a time typically dedicated to honoring and remembering loved ones who have passed away.

Hegseth seeks stronger military ties with Vietnam

HANOI

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Sunday called for deeper military cooperation with Vietnam as he began an official visit to Hanoi, with discussions expected to focus on potential arms deals including transport planes and helicopters.

The visit comes amid long-running negotiations over U.S. military supplies to Vietnam, which still relies heavily on Russian weaponry. Although the U.S. lifted its arms embargo in 2016, talks have yet to produce a major agreement.

Hegseth, who arrived after meetings in Malaysia, said closer defence collaboration "will benefit both countries." The U.S. has already delivered three cutters and three T-6 trainer aircraft to Vietnam, with more expected.

According to Vietnamese officials, the agenda includes discussions on Lockheed Martin's C-130 Hercules transport planes and possible purchases of S-92 and Boeing Chinook helicopters. Washington and Hanoi also signed an accord to expand cooperation on war legacy projects, including dioxin decontamination. Sources familiar with the talks said it was unclear whether any deal would be finalized during Hegseth's visit. Boeing and Lockheed Martin have not commented on potential sales.

The U.S. and Vietnam have strengthened defence and security engagement in recent years amid shared concerns about China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. Hegseth's trip underscores Washington's goal of enhancing partnerships across Southeast Asia to maintain regional stability.

Iran vows to rebuild nuclear facilities stronger after US strikes, says Iran Prez

DUBAI

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday pledged to rebuild the country's damaged nuclear facilities "with greater strength," while reiterating that Tehran has no intention of pursuing nuclear weapons. Speaking during a visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Pezeshkian met with senior nuclear officials and emphasized that the recent U.S. attacks would not hinder Iran's progress. "Destroying buildings and factories will not create a problem for us — we will rebuild, and with greater strength," he told state media.

His remarks came after U.S. President Donald Trump warned that Washington would launch new strikes if Tehran attempted to restart its facilities, which were bombed in June.

The U.S. has accused Iran of developing a weapons program under the guise of civilian research — a claim Tehran firmly rejects. Pezeshkian stressed that Iran's nuclear work focuses on peaceful applications, including medical and energy projects.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

1			9	7		3		6
9		8	4		5	1	2	
3	7		1	2				4
	2	7	3	6		5		1
		1		5			6	
	3	6		1	9	8	4	
	5	4	2		3	6	1	
	1	9	6	8		4	3	
6		3	5	4		2		9

7	6	1	9	3	4	8	5	2
5	9	4	8	2	1	3	6	7
3	8	2	6	7	5	9	1	4
2	1	8	3	5	6	7	4	9
9	3	6	1	4	7	2	8	5
4	5	7	2	8	9	6	3	1
1	2	9	5	6	8	4	7	3
8	4	5	7	9	3	1	2	6
6	7	3	4	1	2	5	9	8

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

FEAR OF FOOD SHORTAGE

Hurricane Melissa devastates farms in Jamaica

NEW HOLLAND

Jamaica's agricultural heartland is reeling after Category 5 Hurricane Melissa tore through the island earlier this week, destroying farms, killing livestock, and triggering fears of food shortages.

In St. Elizabeth parish, known as Jamaica's breadbasket, 69-year-old egg farmer Osbourne Brumley lost both of his "hurricane-proof" facilities to Melissa's 185-mph (298-kph) winds. His J$540

million ($3.37 million) investment was wiped out, killing thousands of chickens and halting production of 75,000 eggs per day that supplied over 200 supermarkets and 14 hotels. "There's no other egg farm in Jamaica the size of mine," Brumley said, warning of a "massive" egg shortage in the coming weeks.

The storm flattened fields of yams, pumpkins, cassava, and potatoes, leaving farmers unable to replant until at least February. Many predict rising prices and long-term food insecurity, compounding damage from Hurricane Beryl in 2024, which had already disrupted the island's food supply.

Agriculture Minister Floyd Green said Melissa dealt a "crippling blow" to Jamaica's most productive parishes, and full damage assessments are underway. The government plans to form a disaster recovery task force, draw on international aid, and temporarily increase imports, including liquid eggs, to stabilize supplies.

"It won't be a quick recovery," Green admitted, "but Jamaican farmers are resilient. Once given the means to start again, they will rebuild."

QUICK READ

Sweet revolution: India rises to 2nd in global honey exports

New Delhi

India has become the world's second-largest exporter of natural honey, exporting 1.07 lakh metric tonnes worth $177.55 million in FY 2023–24, a sharp rise from ninth place in 2020. The achievement is credited to the government's National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM), launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative with a ₹500 crore budget, later extended with ₹370 crore for 2023–26. Implemented by the National Bee Board, NBHM promotes scientific beekeeping and quality honey production. The Madhukranti portal ensures online registration and traceability of honey sources. Beekeeping plays a key role in rural livelihoods, pollination, and crop productivity, forming part of the Centre's "Sweet Revolution" to boost farmers' income and strengthen India's agri-based economy.

Govt plans relaxation of FDI norms in e-commerce

New Delhi

The Commerce and Industry Ministry is considering easing foreign direct investment (FDI) rules to allow investment in the inventory-based e-commerce model, aiming to strengthen India's export potential. Currently, 100% FDI is permitted under the marketplace model, where platforms like Amazon and Flipkart act as intermediaries between buyers and sellers. However, FDI is restricted in inventory-led models where companies sell directly to consumers. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal indicated that the government may allow e-commerce entities to maintain inventory exclusively for export purposes. India's e-commerce exports, currently valued at $4–5 billion, are projected to reach $200–300 billion by 2030. The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 and the RoDTEP scheme support this goal by promoting digital trade and cost-efficient exports.

S. Korea's facility investment hits 4-year high in 2025

Seoul

South Korea's facility investment reached a four-year high in the first nine months of 2025, driven by strong growth in the automotive and semiconductor sectors, official data showed on Sunday. The overall facility investment index rose 4.3% year-on-year from January to September, marking the highest gain since 2021. Investment in the auto sector jumped 15.6%, the sharpest rise in 25 years, as companies expanded electric vehicle (EV) production and autonomous driving capabilities. Semiconductor equipment investment also grew 15.7%, supported by renewed demand amid an AI-driven super-cycle. In September alone, facility investment surged 12.7%, rebounding from a previous dip, reflecting renewed business optimism across South Korea's high-tech and manufacturing industries.

Car sales hit record high in Oct on GST 2.0 boost: FM

'Automakers report strong dispatches driving on festive sales and GST cuts. Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, and M&M saw best-ever monthly sales'

NEW DELHI

India's passenger vehicle (PV) sector reached an all-time high in monthly sales this October, fuelled by GST rate rationalisation and robust festive demand, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Sunday.

According to official data, PV wholesales in the domestic market rose 17.23% year-on-year to 4,70,227 units in October 2025, compared to 4,01,105 units during the same period last year.

This surpassed the previous record of 4,05,522 units set in January 2025, marking the strongest-ever performance in the country's automobile market.

"The PV industry in India reached a record high in volumes this October, supported by GST reforms and strong festive buying," Sitharaman posted on X. She added that several manufacturers achieved their best monthly sales ever, underscoring the positive impact of policy changes and consumer confidence.

Industry experts attribute the surge to reduced GST rates, attractive festive offers, and improved consumer sentiment. The momentum also signals renewed trust in the economy and optimism among buyers.

FACTSHEET

- Kia India posted its best-ever monthly sales of 29,556 units.
- Skoda Auto India achieved a record high with 8,252 units sold.
- Nissan Motor reported 9,675 units, marking a 45% month-on-month growth.
- Mahindra's Trucks and Buses division recorded 2,034 units in domestic and export sales, highlighting the industry-wide upswing.

Groww leads ₹6,800 cr IPO wave, testing fintech market confidence

MUMBAI

Dalal Street is gearing up for a blockbuster week as fintech unicorn Groww launches its much-anticipated ₹6,632 crore IPO on November 4, leading a combined public issue wave exceeding ₹6,800 crore. The listing marks a crucial moment for India's new-age financial platforms amid tightening regulations, thinner margins, and cautious investor sentiment.

Backed by Peak XV Partners, Ribbit Capital, and Tiger Global, Groww's parent company, Billionbrains Garage Ventures, is offering shares in the ₹95–₹100 range, including a ₹1,060 crore fresh issue and a significant offer-for-sale by early investors. The IPO, managed by Kotak Mahindra Capital, will list on both BSE and NSE. Analysts say it will serve as a major test of retail appetite for growth-centric fintechs facing greater scrutiny from SEBI, especially over derivatives trading and compliance.

"This IPO isn't just about pricing; it's about confidence in fintech's sustainability post-pandemic," said a senior market expert.

Alongside Groww, three SME IPOs will open this week — Curis Lifesciences (₹27.52 crore, Nov 7), Finbud Financial Services (₹71.68 crore, Nov 6), and Shreeji Global FMCG (₹85 crore, Nov 4).

Despite global uncertainties, India's equity markets remain resilient, likely drawing strong retail participation. However, experts caution against following hype. The outcome of Groww's IPO could act as a barometer for 2026 IPO sentiment, potentially reviving confidence in India's fintech and tech-first listings.

Rajan emphasized that though developed nations enjoy lower tariffs, India must focus on maintaining competitiveness with peers in East and South Asia

Rajan suggests 10–20% tariff range for India in US trade talks

NEW DELHI

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that India should aim for a 10–20% tariff range in its trade negotiations with the United States, emphasizing competitiveness with East and South Asian economies while avoiding excessive commitments.

In an interview, Rajan remarked, "Zero would be great, but we should not be hampered relative to our competitors." He noted that most East and South Asian countries are settling around 19%, while developed economies like Europe and Japan are closer to 15%, and Singapore operates at 10%.

Rajan warned against making "onerous promises" similar to those by Japan and the Euro area, where major investment commitments could risk their economic stability. "Anything between 10 and 20 would be great, but we shouldn't pledge something difficult to deliver," he said.

He also cautioned against short-term political bargaining, saying some nations may hope to renegotiate later, but that such strategies carry long-term risks.

Highlighting the urgency for India, Rajan described escalating tariffs as a serious concern for exporters, especially in labour-intensive sectors like textiles, which are already losing market share in the US due to trade disruptions.

"It's extremely important for India to lower tariffs quickly in areas where we've gained ground," Rajan said, stressing that timely action is essential to protect India's role in global supply chains.

4 of India's top 10 firms add ₹95,447 crore in market value

MUMBAI

Four of India's top 10 most valued companies collectively added ₹95,447.38 crore in market capitalisation last week, led by gains in Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India (SBI), and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

Despite the volatility, HDFC Bank retained its position as the second-most valued company, followed by Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, and LIC.

Analysts said the contrasting movement highlights investor rotation, with banking and telecom stocks drawing buying interest, while IT and consumer stocks faced pressure. The Nifty index closed the week 0.28% lower at 25,722.10, reflecting possible consolidation ahead.

MARKET VALUE MOVEMENT (WEEKLY SUMMARY)

GAINERS

Company	Increase (₹ Crore)	New Market Value (₹ Crore)
SBI	+30,091.82	8,64,908.87
Bharti Airtel	+14,540.37	11,71,554.56
LIC	+3,383.87	5,65,897.54

LOSERS

Company	Decrease (₹ Crore)	New Market Value (₹ Crore)
Bajaj Finance	-29,090.12	6,48,756.24
ICICI Bank	-21,618.90	9,61,127.86
Infosys	-17,822.38	6,15,890.00

Elon Musk rebuts Sam Altman's tesla delay claim

NEW DELHI

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has fired back at OpenAI chief Sam Altman after the latter alleged he had been waiting over seven years for a Tesla car he booked in 2018. Altman claimed to have paid $45,000 for the pre-order of a second-generation Roadster but never received the vehicle or a refund, sharing screenshots of his failed email exchanges with Tesla.

Posting on X, Altman described the ordeal as "a tale in three acts," expressing disappointment at the long delay. Musk, however, swiftly responded, saying Altman had "forgotten act four" — where the issue was resolved and a refund was issued within 24 hours.

In a sharp follow-up, Musk accused Altman of hypocrisy, referencing OpenAI's transformation from a non-profit to a for-profit entity: "You stole a non-profit."

The Roadster, unveiled in 2017 as "the fastest production car ever," has faced multiple production delays and remains in development, according to Tesla's filings. The online exchange reignited tensions between the two tech titans, whose rivalry has deepened since Musk's departure from OpenAI's board in 2018.

Microsoft to resume hiring with AI-focused workforce expansion

NEW DELHI

After a year of widespread layoffs, Microsoft is preparing for a new phase of hiring focused primarily on artificial intelligence (AI), according to CEO Satya Nadella. Speaking on the BG2 podcast with investor Brad Gerstner, Nadella said the company's headcount will increase in a "smarter and more leveraged" manner, guided by how AI enhances productivity across its operations.

As of June 2025, Microsoft employed around 2.28 lakh people, a figure that remained nearly steady after several layoffs that cut over 15,000 jobs. Unlike the pre-AI boom period of 2022, when the company expanded its workforce by 22%, current growth will be driven by targeted recruitment in AI-related roles.

Nadella explained that Microsoft is shifting from large-scale hiring to "targeted scaling," using AI to make smaller teams more efficient. He described this as a continuous "unlearning and learning" phase where employees must integrate AI into daily functions like research, planning, and operations.

Citing an example, Nadella said a Microsoft executive used AI agents to manage fiber-network operations when human hiring couldn't meet rising demand, demonstrating how technology can amplify output without expanding manpower.

CEO Satya Nadella said future recruitment will emphasize "smarter and more leveraged" growth, driven by AI productivity gains, marking a shift toward targeted scaling rather than mass hiring.

Earlier this year, Microsoft reportedly laid off about 9,000 employees — around 4% of its global workforce — with its gaming division, including Xbox, facing significant cuts. Xbox head Phil Spencer said the restructuring was intended to streamline management and focus on strategic growth.

This renewed hiring drive marks Microsoft's effort to rebuild its workforce around AI-led innovation and operational agility.

Morgan Stanley MD warns of global risks to India's growth

MUMBAI

Morgan Stanley's Managing Director and Chief India Equity Strategist, Ridham Desai, has cautioned that while India's economic fundamentals remain robust, external global forces could threaten its growth trajectory. Speaking at the Business Standard BFSI Summit, Desai said corporate and household balance sheets are strong and reforms continue to fuel momentum. However, record global debt, demographic decline, and unpredictable geopolitical shifts pose serious risks beyond India's control.

He highlighted that India's domestic strength lies in clean corporate finances, stable household savings, and ongoing reform initiatives that promise steady growth without drastic legislative changes. Yet, the world's aging population and mounting debt present deep structural challenges. Echoing Elon Musk, Desai noted that "the population problem is far bigger than climate change."

Emphasizing India's demographic advantage, Desai said, "Robots don't wear clothes or eat food — they don't consume. India's human capital is its biggest moat." This, he added, makes India a critical market for global companies, estimating that it could contribute up to 20% of global growth over the next two decades.

Desai also flagged geopolitical vulnerabilities and unfinished farm reforms as domestic concerns, urging productivity improvements in agriculture to unlock a potential $2 trillion farm economy. Despite external headwinds, he concluded, India's macroeconomic base remains resilient — though global instability could test it in coming years.

INDIA MANUFACTURING AOC

Make in India: AOC projectors to be manufactured locally in India

NEW DELHI

In a significant step towards strengthening the government's 'Make in India' initiative, Clixroute Industries Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with TPV Audio and Visual Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. to begin local manufacturing of AOC projectors and outdoor power supplies in India.

Clixroute Industries, part of the RAAMPS Group, will act as the exclusive importer, manufacturer, and reseller of AOC products under this multi-year agreement. The company plans to invest over $10 million to set up advanced manufacturing facilities in Uttar Pradesh, build a robust local supply chain, and reduce dependence on imports.

AOC International, a global electronics leader and subsidiary of Taiwan's TPV Technology, is renowned for its high-quality display solutions. TPV is one of the world's largest producers of LCD monitors and televisions, with AOC among its top global brands.

Himanshu Gupta, Director of Clixroute Industries, said the collaboration represents a bridge between AOC's global innovation and India's growing consumer market. The project aims to create around 200 jobs, support local component sourcing, and enhance skill development in the region.

With rising demand for advanced projection and outdoor power solutions across education, entertainment, corporate, and infrastructure sectors, the initiative is expected to bolster AOC's market footprint. The partnership exemplifies how international technology alliances and domestic manufacturing can jointly drive India's next phase of industrial and economic growth.

ROOTS SO DEEP

When caste shines in new forms in modern India

Economic progress and modernity have weakened caste, but not eliminated it; until equality is established in mindset and behavior, the ideal of constitutional equality will remain a mirage.

Caste has been an institution within the Indian social structure, influencing a person's life from birth to death.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned an India where individual identity would be based on their abilities, morality, and actions, rather than on their innate social class. To this end, several safeguards were incorporated into the Constitution, including the right to equality, equality of opportunity, and the abolition of untouchability.

However, even after more than seven decades, it must be acknowledged that caste consciousness is not limited to villages; it has persisted, albeit in a modified form, in educated, urban, and professional circles.

The Constitution, through Articles 14 to 17, explicitly grants all citizens the right to equality and dignity. Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar described this as a means not only to legal equality but also to social and economic equality. He warned that political equality would be unsustainable if social inequality persisted. This warning remains relevant today, as despite the power of law, caste-based thinking, deeply ingrained in society's psyche, has not been completely eradicated.

Education is considered a vehicle for social consciousness, but surprisingly, caste prejudices persist in subtle and sophisticated forms even among the educated class. Caste is often present as an unspoken identity during admissions to universities and professional institutions, in peer relationships, and in social networking. Discussions of "merit" often lead people to harbor prejudices about reservation policies and assume that those from reserved categories are inherently less qualified. This perception challenges the principle of equality even among the educated class of modern India.

The so-called 'Business Caste'

The presence of caste cannot be denied even in the professional sphere. Traditionally, trade and business have been dominated by certain castes, and this trend continues implicitly in modern corporate structures. Caste social capital plays a significant role in networking, investment, and access to opportunities. For example, members of a business community are more comfortable offering business support to one another. Similarly, social biases are often at play during job recruitment or promotion under vague criteria such as "cultural fit" or "network fit."

Caste in the urban

Politically, caste consciousness has also gained new energy in modern democracy. The urban middle class often considers itself above caste, but during elections, the same class appears to base its allegiance on caste identity. Caste forums, student unions, and professional associations are now linking their caste identity with the demand for rights. Thus, caste is no longer merely a social institution, but has taken the form of a 'political resource' and 'social capital.' In urban India, this form of casteism manifests as symbolic rather than overt discrimination. Directly insulting someone because of their caste is now a crime, but subtle forms of this mindset persist in social life. This duality makes it clear that the social influence of caste still permeates even the most personal decisions.

Digital casteism

Ethnic consciousness has found a new outlet in the digital age. Pages, organizations, and communities of ethnic groups on social media platforms promote their pride and history. This can be a symbol of cultural self-respect, but it often devolves into competitive ethnicity, creating new divisions in society. The "us" versus "them" mentality now persists even in the virtual world.

The myth of 'talent'

Following economic liberalization, it was believed that merit would be paramount in the global market and the private sector. Modernity and marketization have provided the illusion of equal opportunity, but have failed to eliminate the reality of caste inequality.

Chained thinking

Urbanization and industrialization were considered to break down caste boundaries. However, in practice, caste consciousness has revived in new forms even in cities. For example, even in metropolitan areas, most people marry within their own caste groups. Caste and sub-caste remain prominent filters on matrimony websites. This means that while economic progress and modernity have changed external behavior, social psychology has still not been freed from the confines of caste.

A tool that's only getting sharper

One reason for the persistence of caste consciousness is that caste is no longer seen solely as a symbol of oppression in society, but also as a support for identity and community. Particularly after the rise of reservation and social justice politics, disadvantaged groups have used caste as a means to protect their rights. This has also led to the emergence of a "positive discourse" of caste, which speaks of self-respect and representation. However, in this process, the boundaries of caste have not been completely eliminated; rather, they have been transformed.

Pros and Cons

This persistence of caste consciousness presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Indian democracy. A challenge because it limits the ideals of equality and social justice, and an opportunity because this consciousness can be transformed into a broader discourse on social justice. If caste is used as a tool of representation and cooperation rather than oppression, it can strengthen social cohesion.

Modern forms of caste

Social scientists believe that caste has now become a "resource network" in Indian urban society. Whether in jobs, business, or politics, it still serves as the basis for trust, cooperation, and the distribution of resources. This makes it clear that modernity has not eradicated caste, but rather reshaped it. Education and economic progress have challenged caste inequality, but the pace of change in social behavior is slow. As long as group identity, rather than individual merit, remains the basis for social respect, opportunity, and recognition, caste consciousness will persist. Sociologists André Betienne, MN Srinivas, and Gopinath Mohanty have repeatedly pointed out that urbanization in India does not mean the complete disintegration of traditional structures, but rather their reconfiguration. This is why caste-related inequalities persist in subtle forms even in modern fields like the IT sector, media, education, and medicine.

What's in store

The way forward lies in a combination of education, sensitization, and policymaking. Education based on social diversity and equality should be promoted in educational institutions. Mechanisms like ethics codes, equal opportunity commissions, and audit systems on inequality can be useful in promoting diversity in the workplace. The media must play an active role in breaking down racial stereotypes. The Constitution is not merely a legal document, but a manifesto for social change. Its spirit dictates that a person's worth be judged by their actions, not their birth. The need of the hour is the educated and working class—who play an exemplary role in society—to lead this change. Until the role of caste in social respect, opportunity, and behavior is eliminated, the dream of equality will remain unfulfilled.

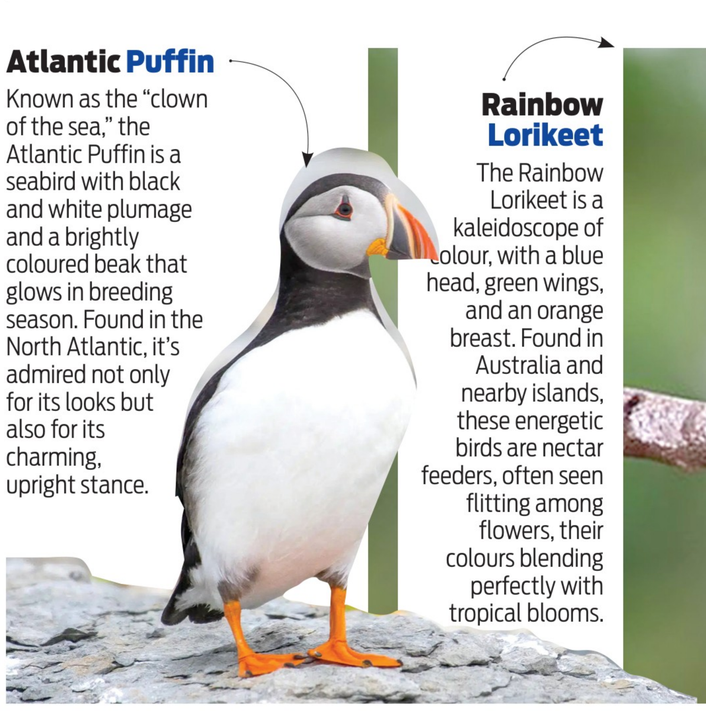
Rising beyond caste, any chance?

Ultimately, it can be said that Indian society is changing, but caste consciousness remains its deepest root. The Constitution has given us direction, but social reality has not yet fully progressed in that direction. Urbanization, education, and employment have certainly weakened caste, but its influence has not yet ended. Modern India's greatest responsibility is to realize the ideal of equality in both law and practice. Only then will we be able to realize the vision of an India where a person's identity is not their caste, but their humanity.

Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar

Flying jewels that illuminate the blue skies

Birds are living jewels of our planet, admired for their colours, patterns, and grace. Some species look so striking that they seem almost unreal, like flying artworks created by nature. Here are eight of the beautiful birds from around the world known for their beautiful plumage.



Atlantic Puffin
Known as the "clown of the sea," the Atlantic Puffin is a seabird with black and white plumage and a brightly coloured beak that glows in breeding season. Found in the North Atlantic, it's admired not only for its looks but also for its charming, upright stance.

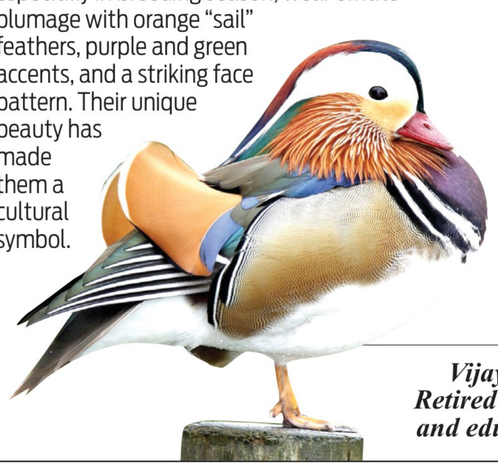
Rainbow Lorikeet
The Rainbow Lorikeet is a kaleidoscope of colour, with a blue head, green wings, and an orange breast. Found in Australia and nearby islands, these energetic birds are nectar feeders, often seen flitting among flowers, their colours blending perfectly with tropical blooms.

Keel-billed Toucan
This tropical bird, found in Central and South America, is famous for its oversized bill painted in green, orange, red, and blue. The contrast between its colourful beak and dark body makes it unforgettable. Its cheerful calls echo through rainforests, adding life to its beauty.

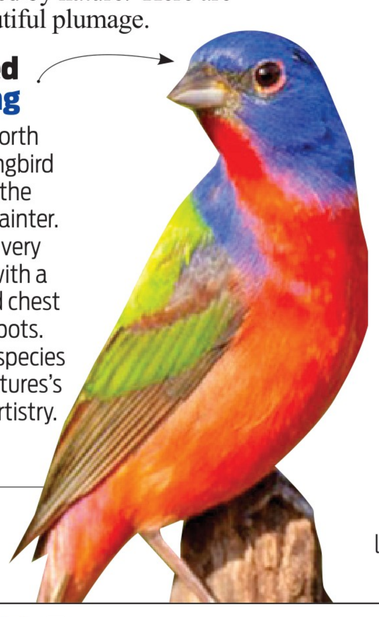
Indian Roller
The Indian Roller, which is prevalent in the Indian subcontinent, is hailed for its beautiful colour of turquoise and blue hues. In courtship, they do air stunts, rolling and diving in the air, and it is one of the most visible birds to the eye in the sky.

Golden Pheasant
The male Golden Pheasant lives in the western China forests, and is a burst of colour, with a golden crest, crimson body, green back, and a long, patterned tail. It is also one of the most photographed birds in the world, due to its shining feathers.

Mandarin Duck
The Mandarin Duck hails from East Asia. Males, especially in breeding season, wear ornate plumage with orange "sail" feathers, purple and green accents, and a striking face pattern. Their unique beauty has made them a cultural symbol.



Painted Bunting
This little North American songbird resembles the palette of a painter. The male is very interesting with a blue head, red chest and green spots. These all bird species showcases natures's beauty and artistry.



Scarlet Macaw
Native to Central and South American rainforests, the Scarlet Macaw is known for its bright red feathers, contrasted with blue and yellow wings. Highly intelligent and social, these parrots live in flocks and are admired for both their dazzling appearance and loud, vibrant calls.

Vijay Garg
Retired principal and educationist

EVENT DIARY

British Council event to explore future of India's creative economy

BENGALURU

British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, will organise a two-day event 'Creative convergence: Growth reimagined at the Bangalore International Centre from November 5.

The event will bring together India and the UK's leading voices in arts, culture, and enterprise to shape the future of the creative economy.

The inaugural edition will convene creative entrepreneurs, policymakers, and cultural change makers to exchange ideas, share insights, and explore new models of collaboration for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The evemt will feature: Policy conference on creative cities; Innovative creative enterprises; music city futures; Arts and technology; Production skills in theatre and events ecosystem; Representation and diversity, and UK–India partnerships.

The event is open to audiences aged 18 and above, with free entry upon registration.

For more details and registration, *visit: https://www.britishcouncil.in/events/creative-convergence-innovate-include-inspire-presented-british-council*, according to a press statement by the British Council, Bengaluru.

ADAH SHARMA unlocks the magic of Tulsi Vivah

Actress Adah Sharma recently shared the spiritual importance of Tulsi Vivah, a sacred Hindu ritual that celebrates the symbolic marriage of Tulsi Maa (Holy Basil) and Lord Vishnu.

In a touching video posted on social media, The Kerala Story actress narrated the ancient legend behind the ritual. She explained that Tulsi Vivah originates from the story of Vrinda, a devoted wife of Raja Jalandhar and a staunch devotee of Lord Vishnu. Because of her devotion, her husband became powerful and undefeatable. Worried deities sought Lord Vishnu's help, who took Jalandhar's form to break Vrinda's power. When Vrinda discovered the truth, she was heartbroken and cursed Lord Vishnu to be separated from his wife — which later came true during his time as Rama, when he was apart from Sita.

Moved by Vrinda's purity, Lord Vishnu transformed her into the Tulsi plant, promising she would always be worshipped and remain close to him.

Adah also mentioned that her mother made a beautiful rangoli for the occasion and humorously admitted she couldn't make one herself.

Tulsi Vivah marks the end of the monsoon and the start of the Hindu wedding season, reminding devotees of devotion, faith, and the divine bond between Tulsi Maa and Lord Vishnu.

Shah Rukh Khan stuns fans with 'King' teaser

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan celebrated his 60th birthday with a thrilling surprise for his fans — the teaser of his much-awaited action film King. Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, the one-minute-eleven-second teaser has set social media buzzing with excitement.

Directed by Siddharth Anand, King marks Khan's second collaboration with the filmmaker after Pathaan. The teaser presents SRK in a darker, more intense role than ever before. With silver hair, sharp expressions, and a haunting aura, he appears as a ruthless and mysterious figure. One gripping moment features him delivering a powerful dialogue: "Kitne khoon kiye, yaad nahi… Aur mein uski wajah." A quick glimpse of a "King of Hearts" card cleverly hints at his long-standing title both on and off screen.

The teaser immediately sparked a wave of reactions online. Fans showered it with admiration, with comments like "My lord, he is back and how!" and "Box office gonna blast!" Many were relieved to learn of the 2026 release date, ending rumours of delays.

According to the makers, King is Siddharth Anand's "biggest mass action film yet," filled with high-speed stunts, emotional depth, and grand visuals. With Khan's magnetic presence and Anand's energetic direction, the film promises to redefine the action genre in Bollywood. The teaser confirms one thing — Shah Rukh Khan, the eternal King of Hearts, still reigns supreme.

Fans throng outside King Khan's Mannat

Thousands of Shah Rukh Khan fans gathered outside his iconic Mumbai home, Mannat, to mark his 60th birthday. Admirers traveled from Japan, the UK, UAE, Nepal, and across India, waving banners, singing his songs, and chanting his name.

Heartwarming moments included a mother-daughter duo from the UK reciting his famous dialogues. Fans from Kolkata endured a 33-hour train journey, while visitors from Dubai and Japan expressed their love through songs and banners. Though Shah Rukh stayed at Pali Hill due to Mannat's renovation, the celebration reflected the superstar's enduring global charm and the joy he brings to fans.

A new Netflix series, "Operation Safed Sagar," starring Siddharth and Jimmy Shergill, was unveiled at the inaugural Sekhon Indian Air Force Marathon 2025 in New Delhi. The event, held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, celebrated the bravery and spirit of the Indian Air Force (IAF), making it the perfect platform to introduce the patriotic series.

The marathon witnessed participation from over 12,000 people, including Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, IAF officers, veterans, dignitaries, and civilians across 46 locations nationwide.

Produced by Matchbox Shots and Feel-Good Films, with the support of the Indian Air Force, the series is inspired by true events from the Kargil War. It tells the story of IAF pilots who risked everything to protect their nation in one of the most challenging air missions in history. Alongside Siddharth and Shergill, the cast features Abhay Verma, Mihir Ahuja, Taaruk Raina, and Arnav Bhasin.

Speaking at the event, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh praised the IAF's professionalism during the Kargil operation. Monika Shergill, Vice President of Content at Netflix India, said the series goes beyond the battlefield, focusing on courage, friendship, and patriotism.

"Operation Safed Sagar" has been filmed across active Air Force bases and will stream on Netflix in 2026.

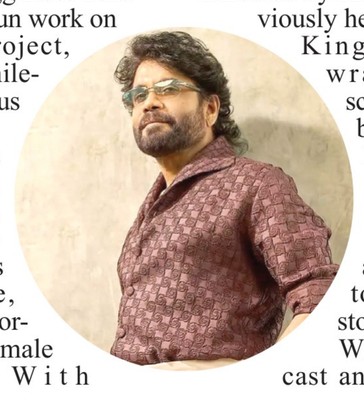
SUSHMITHA BHAT joins Nagarjuna's milestone film 'King 100'

Actress Sushmitha Bhat has joined the cast of Nagarjuna Akkineni's much-awaited 100th film, tentatively titled "King 100." The senior star, currently hosting the ninth season of Bigg Boss Telugu, has already begun work on this landmark project, marking a major milestone in his illustrious career.

The film features three leading ladies, with Tabu playing an important role. One actress will be seen as Nagarjuna's wife, while another will portray a significant female lead. With Sushmitha Bhat now onboard, the makers are reportedly in talks with a popular actress to fill the remaining lead role.

Sushmitha, known for her performances in Natyam and the Tamil film Love Marriage, expressed excitement about joining such a prestigious project.

Directed by R. Karthik, who previously helmed a Tamil film, King 100 recently wrapped a short schedule and is set to begin its main shoot later this month. The project is being produced by Nagarjuna himself, adding a personal touch to his milestone venture.



With an impressive cast and an experienced director, King 100 promises to be a grand celebration of Nagarjuna's cinematic journey, blending emotion, drama, and star power.

Ram Pothineni wraps shoot of Andhra King Taluka

Actor Ram Pothineni has officially completed filming for his upcoming entertainer "Andhra King Taluka." The final song sequence, choreographed by Jani Master, was shot on a grand set in Hyderabad featuring Ram and actress Bhagyashri Borse, marking the wrap-up of the film's production.

Directed by Mahesh Babu P and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the movie is now moving into post-production with an energetic promotional campaign planned ahead of its November 28 release.

Sharing his excitement, Ram posted, "Finally wrapped the shoot. A film I'm proud of… A film we will all be proud of! Thank you, @filmymahesh, for this beautiful film in my career. #AndhraKingTaluka is coming to you soon — #AKTonNOV28."

The film features Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead, while Kannada superstar Upendra plays a special guest role. The supporting cast includes Rao Ramesh, Murali Sharma, Satya, Rahul Ramakrishna, and VTV Ganesh, adding to the film's star power.

In addition, music composer duo Vivek–Mervin will make their Telugu debut with the project, promising a lively soundtrack. With its blend of mass appeal, star performances, and catchy music, Andhra King Taluka is expected to deliver a grand cinematic experience when it hits theatres later this month.

MILLIE BOBBY brown accuses David Harbour of bullying

In a shocking development, Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown has accused her co-star David Harbour of bullying and harassment during the filming of the show's upcoming fifth and final season, prompting Netflix to launch an internal investigation.

According to a report by RadarOnline.com, the 20-year-old actress, best known for her role as Eleven, filed a formal complaint against the 50-year-old actor, who plays Chief Jim Hopper. While the investigation lasted several months, insiders confirmed that the accusations did not involve any sexual misconduct.

An unnamed source revealed, "Millie filed a harassment and bullying claim before production began. There were pages of accusations, and the investigation went on for months." Netflix has so far declined to comment on the matter, with insiders saying the streaming giant wants to maintain focus on the show's much-anticipated finale.

Despite the controversy, Stranger Things 5 remains on track for release, with Volume 1 premiering on November 26, 2025, followed by Volume 2 on December 25, and the final episode dropping on December 31.

Created by the Duffer Brothers, Stranger Things has been a global hit since 2016, blending science fiction, horror, and nostalgia. The returning cast includes Winona Ryder, Finn Wolfhard, Gaten Matarazzo, and others.

Pranav Mohanlal's 'Dies Irae' sets box office record

Pranav Mohanlal's latest horror thriller, "Dies Irae," directed by Rahul Sadasivan, has stormed the box office, becoming the biggest A-rated Malayalam opener to date. The film, which released yesterday to glowing reviews, has surpassed the record set by Marco, collecting an impressive ₹12 crore worldwide, including paid premieres.

Known for his acclaimed horror films Bhoothakalam and Bramayugam, director Rahul Sadasivan once again delivers a gripping and atmospheric story that has struck a chord with audiences.

Despite being a small-budget film, Dies Irae is proving to be a major commercial success, with trade analysts predicting a strong weekend performance ahead.

The film is produced by Chakravarthy Rama Chandra and S. Sashikanth under the banners of Night Shift Studios and YNOT Studios. It features Sushmitha Bhat, Gibin Gopinath, Jaya Kurup, and Arun Ajikumar in key roles, with Christo Xavier composing the haunting background score that adds to the eerie atmosphere.

With its powerful storytelling, stunning visuals, and Pranav Mohanlal's intense performance, Dies Irae has reaffirmed Rahul Sadasivan's reputation as one of Malayalam cinema's finest horror directors, marking yet another milestone for the genre.

SUNDAR Stars as India Clinch Five-Wicket Win

Opting to bowl first, India restricted Australia to 186/6 as Arshdeep and Varun starred.

"It's always special to contribute in tough situations."
—Washington Sundar

HOBART

A composed unbeaten 49 by Washington Sundar guided India to a thrilling five-wicket win over Australia in the third T20I on Sunday, helping the visitors level the five-match series 1-1 after a dramatic chase of 187.

Earlier, India opted to bowl first after captain Suryakumar Yadav won the toss. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, returning to the side, struck twice in his opening spell to remove Travis Head and Josh Inglis, finishing with impressive figures of 3 for 35. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy chipped in with two wickets to restrict Australia to 186/6 despite blazing half-centuries from Tim David (74 off 38) and Marcus Stoinis (64 off 39).

Chasing 187, India started brightly with Abhishek Sharma's quickfire 25 off 16 balls, but the top order faltered soon after. Shubman Gill, Axar Patel, Tilak Varma, and captain Suryakumar Yadav all departed inside 15 overs, leaving India reeling at 152/5.

With 60 runs needed from the final five overs, Washington Sundar took charge. Displaying calm under pressure, the all-rounder smashed two towering sixes and four boundaries in a match-winning display, steering India home with nine balls to spare.

Jitesh Sharma remained unbeaten alongside Sundar, hitting the winning runs to seal victory at 187/5.

"The intent was to stay calm and back my shots," said Sundar, who was named Player of the Match for his all-round brilliance. "It's always special to contribute in tough situations."

The five-match series now stands level at 1-1, with the fourth T20I set to be played in Adelaide on Wednesday. India will look to build on this momentum, while Australia aim to bounce back after their bowlers failed to defend a competitive total.

Pant Leads India A to Narrow Win Over South Africa A

BENGALURU

India A survived a late scare to clinch a thrilling three-wicket victory over South Africa A in the opening four-day match at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on Sunday, thanks to Rishabh Pant's fluent 90 and a nerveless finish from the lower order.

Rishabh Pant's 90 and a resolute eighth-wicket stand guide India A home in tense chase

Chasing 275, India A appeared in command at one stage before collapsing to 215/7 as Pant, Tanush Kotian (23), and Ayush Badoni (23) fell to South Africa A's relentless short-ball attack. Just when the visitors sensed an upset, Manav Suthar (20 n.o.) and Anshul Kamboj (37 n.o.) steadied nerves with an unbroken 58-run partnership for the eighth wicket, steering the hosts home shortly after lunch.

Pant's counterattack had set the tone earlier in the morning.

Resuming at 119/4, the wicketkeeper-batter launched into pacer Okuhle Cele with audacious strokes, including a trademark one-handed six, as India A raced ahead.

His aggressive approach, however, proved his undoing when he top-edged Tiaan van Vuuren in the slips after a brisk 90 off 113 balls.

Badoni and Kotian's dismissals off hook shots exposed India A's recurring short-ball woes, but Suthar and Kamboj showed maturity beyond their experience, mixing caution with aggression to deny the South Africans any further breakthroughs.

Tiaan van Vuuren was South Africa A's standout bowler, claiming 3/56, while Tshepo Moreki bagged two wickets.

India A finished on 277/7 to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The second game begins on November 6 at the same venue.

Result: India A beat South Africa A by 3 wickets. Player of the Match: Tanush Kotian.

IPL Auction May Move Overseas Again, Abu Dhabi Leads Gulf Race: Report

MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 auction could be heading abroad once again, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly eyeing an overseas venue in the Gulf region. According to reports, Abu Dhabi has emerged as the frontrunner, though Oman and Qatar remain in contention.

If confirmed, it would mark the third consecutive year the IPL auction is held outside India. The 2024 edition took place in Dubai, followed by Jeddah hosting the 2025 auction. Sources indicate that all 10 IPL franchises have been informally alerted about the possibility of an overseas event, although the final venue city remains undisclosed.

The BCCI had initially planned to bring the event back to India, but scheduling conflicts during the festive and wedding season in December have complicated venue arrangements.

The auction is expected to take place in mid-December, with the board likely to make an official announcement before November 15 — the deadline for franchises to submit their retention and release lists.

Meanwhile, franchise activity has intensified ahead of the retention deadline, with speculation surrounding Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson's future. Reports suggest the wicketkeeper-batter has requested a trade or release, although he remains contractually bound to the Royals until the end of next season. Team owner Manoj Badale has reportedly reached out to other franchises to explore trade options.

Chennai Super Kings are believed to have shown interest in Samson as a potential successor to MS Dhoni, but talks have reportedly stalled as CSK are unwilling to part with key players.

With the auction window approaching fast, all eyes are on the BCCI's final decision — and whether Abu Dhabi will indeed host the marquee event once again.

Shaheen Afridi, Babar Azam Shine as Pak Clinch T20I Series Against SA

LAHORE

Pakistan completed a remarkable comeback to clinch the three-match T20I series 2-1 against South Africa, defeating the visitors by four wickets in the decisive final game at the Gaddafi Stadium. Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi and star batter Babar Azam played pivotal roles in Pakistan's series-clinching triumph before a packed crowd of over 32,000 fans.

Afridi produced a stunning new-ball spell, taking 3 for 26, as South Africa were restricted to 139 for 9.

The left-arm pacer struck twice in the first over, removing Quinton de Kock and Lhuan-dre Pretorius for ducks, leaving the visitors reeling at 0 for 2. Debutant Usman Tariq impressed with 2 for 26, while Corbin Bosch top-scored for South Africa with an unbeaten 30.

In reply, Pakistan overcame early hiccups to chase down the target in 19 overs. Skipper Salman Ali Agha (33) and Babar Azam (68 off 47 balls) anchored the innings with a 76-run third-wicket partnership, rescuing Pakistan from 21 for 2. Azam delighted home fans with three consecutive boundaries off Ottniel Baartman to reach his 37th T20I fifty, ending a 13-innings drought.

Though Pakistan briefly stumbled after Azam's dismissal, Usman Khan held his nerve to seal victory with a single.

"I'm happy with the team's comeback after being 1-0 down," said captain Salman Ali Agha. "It was a great collective effort."

South Africa's skipper Donovan Ferreira admitted his team's batting collapse proved costly, saying, "We lost wickets in clusters, but it was a good learning experience."

The teams will now face off in a three-match ODI series starting November 4 in Faisalabad.

KANE WILLIAMSON Announces Retirement from T20 Internationals Ahead

WELLINGTON

Charismatic batter and former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Sunday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals, days before the start of a five-match home series against the West Indies.

The decision ends a remarkable 14-year career in the shortest format, marked by consistency, calm leadership and unmatched sportsmanship.

Williamson, 35, who represented New Zealand in 93 T20Is and amassed 2,575 runs at an average of 33, will not feature in the upcoming series or the following ODIs, as he focuses on the three-Test series against the Caribbean side beginning in Christchurch on December 2. He retires as New Zealand's second-highest T20I run-scorer, with 18 half-centuries and a highest score of 95.

Having debuted in 2011, Williamson captained the side in 75 matches, leading the Blackcaps to two T20 World Cup semifinals (2016 and 2022) and the final in 2021.

Widely regarded as one of the game's most composed leaders, he also holds more than 19,000 runs across formats.

"It's something I've loved being part of for a long time," Williamson told New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

"It's the right time for myself and the team.

There's so much T20 talent in the setup, and I'll be supporting from afar."

Recently appointed strategic advisor for the Lucknow Super Giants in the 2026 IPL season, Williamson emphasized his ongoing commitment to New Zealand's Test and ODI formats.

NZC coach Rob Walter hailed Williamson's immense contribution, saying, "His runs and leadership have been invaluable.

Captaining 75 of his 93 T20Is shows the extent of his influence."

Williamson is expected to continue playing franchise cricket around the world.

LAHORE

Akmal Trolled After Congratulating Pak for Beating an 'Invisible Third Team'

Former Pakistan batter Umar Akmal was hilariously trolled online after he mistakenly congratulated the national team for winning a "tri-series" following their 2–1 T20I victory over South Africa in Lahore on Saturday. His congratulatory post referred to a non-existent third team, prompting fans to flood social media with memes and witty comments.

Pakistan clinched the three-match T20I series by six wickets after chasing down 140 runs at the Gaddafi Stadium, thanks to a fluent 68 off 47 balls from Babar Azam and a solid 33 by skipper Salman Ali Agha. The hosts overcame an early wobble to register a comfortable win.

GOA

Mixed Fortunes for Indians on Day One of FIDE World Cup

The opening day of the FIDE World Cup 2025 produced mixed results for the Indian contingent, with four players — reigning World Junior Champion Pranav V, Suryashekhar Ganguly, Iniyan P, and Pranesh M — registering victories in the first round of the 206-player knockout tournament. A draw in their return games tomorrow will see them advance to Round Two.

The tournament's top 50 rated players, including eight Indians, are directly seeded into the second round starting November 4.

Each round features two classical games with alternate colours, followed by rapid and blitz tie-breakers if needed.

BARCELONA

Flick Vows to Protect Barcelona Teen Star Lamine Yamal

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has pledged to "protect" teenage sensation Lamine Yamal amid growing scrutiny over the young winger's form and off-field remarks following last weekend's Clasico defeat to Real Madrid.

The 18-year-old, who has been battling a groin injury, endured a quiet outing as the defending champions went down 2-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu, a result that left them five points adrift of La Liga leaders Real Madrid. Yamal also faced criticism for comments made before the match, suggesting that Madrid "steal and complain," which sparked controversy among rival fans and sections of the Spanish media.

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